Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

OAS Commission To Arrive in Panama Today

FL2305114589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The special OAS mission charged with going to Panama will arrive in that country today. There is much questioning about that organization's silence regarding the economic boycott and U.S. military invasion threats against that Central American nation.

The delegation is made up of OAS General Secretary Joao Baena Soares and the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago. The decision to send this group to Panama was made 5 days ago in Washington during a meeting of the 31 OAS member countries.

Commentary on Visit

FL2305181189 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today, the special OAS delegation will begin its mediating mission in Panama. The orders the delegation has in its hand could not be more pretentious: achieve a national agreement that will ensure the transferring of power in the Central American country.

What type of power transfer is the delegation referring to? No other than the one the United States wants to impose on them. This is to say, they want the ousting of General Manuel Antonio Noriega and the establishing of a docile government that adheres to Washington's desires. This is pure intervention.

Even though it is believed that the OAS has gone along with the United States wishes because of untolerable pressures, and here we see how dependent the OAS is, the role it is playing has caused much anger in the Panamanian media. Gen Noriega himself said that the OAS position sets a fatal precedent for Latin America. However, he hoped that the OAS delegation would have the time and interest to see the elements of U.S. intervention in Panama.

Presidential candidate Carlos Duque's tone was more dramatic. He asked the OAS not to intervene in Panamanian internal affairs because they are an organization which, and we use his words here, has no political, legal, or moral authority to judge nations. As examples, Duque mentioned the OAS actions when Jacobo Arbenz was ousted from power in Guatemala in 1954, Cuba in 1961, the very Panama in 1964, the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965, the Malvinas War 3 years later [as heard], and most recently the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983.

This is why it looks like the OAS mission in Panama will not get any results; this is understood. Attention now is not focused on what will happen, but on what could happen later. Attention is focused on whether the United States will be able to intervene in Panama with impunity.

Meets With Solis Palma

FL2405115689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] The special OAS delegation that arrived yesterday in Panama concluded its 1st work day in Panama City by meeting with President Manuel Solis Palma for almost 2 hours.

The meeting was the first official act carried out by the delegation which is being presided over by OAS General Secretary Joao Baena Soares and made up of the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago.

At the end of the meeting, Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said that the encounter was held in a positive, cordial, and open-minded atmosphere which reiterated their friendship. The commissioners gave President Solis Palma their good wishes.

Before the meeting, Baena Soares said that his trip to Panama is in fulfillment of the mandate issued at the end of the OAS meeting. The meeting was held on 17 May. Just the same, Baena Soares said he intends to meet with the Panamanian authorities, as well as with the leaders of the nation's political parties.

Pentagon Allegedly Tells Troops To Ignore FDP

FL2405120989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] In Washington, it was said that caravans of U.S. troops have begun to move through Panama with orders to challenge that nation's regulations.

The Pentagon said that groups of 10 or more vehicles carrying armed soldiers are under express orders to ignore the Panamanian Defense Forces, as well as the laws established by the authorities for the transit of military vehicles.

GRANMA Editorial Reacts to Bush's Statements

FL2405130589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] With the title, "For the Cuban People Socialism or Death Is a Real Option" GRANMA published an editorial in which it states that Mr George Bush has just recommended that we hold a plebiscite to show, what he called, the people's will. Last November, added GRANMA, Bush was elected President of the United States, a country in which 45 percent of its voters did not go to the polls. In other words, Bush assumed the Presidency with barely one-third of the people's votes.

He recommends to us that we vote when less than a month ago, 7,117,000 Cubans voted for their municipal government organs. This is 98.3 percent of the registered voters, stressed the newspaper of the Communist Party of Cuba's [PCC] Central Committee's organ.

Later, GRANMA states that Bush chose a conspicuous place, date, and auditorium—the White House, headquarters of the presidential mansion—for his declarations on 20 May, the celebrations of Cuba's independence. He spoke before 230 leaders of the Cuban-American community. The press reports classify this action as an involuntary emphasis of his hybrid character. After saying that Bush enumerated, with his usual arrogance, a list of demands, among which he includes holding a plebiscite, democratic reforms, and freeing of the counterrevolutionary prisoners, GRANMA asks: Why all this? What bothers Mr Bush so much that he made his first public declarations on Cuba a virulent libel against the historical truths which have existed for 30 years?

Another part of the editorial relates Bush's treacherous statements in favor of reforms to, according to him, satisfy the pressures of the people, as well as their will. Mr Bush, this nation, continues GRANMA, irreversibly opted for socialism, Marxism-Leninism, and will not pay attention to strange proposals on the basic orientation of society. Here, as much as you may hate it, you will not see capitalist renovations wearing a socialist disguise.

The editorial concludes by saying: Nobody gave us our freedom and to preserve it we prepare ourselves with the same millions of people who went to the polls, because they are also militias. For the Cuban people, and it is about time you knew it, the motto: Socialism or death is a real option, an option that we will prove in battle or in death.

U.S. Blocking Coverage of Pan-American Games

FL2305165389 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 May 89

[Commentary by Rene del Rio]

[Text] Manuel Gonzalez Guerra, president of the Cuban Olympic Committee, has written to all the Olympic Committees of America regarding the new U.S. campaign against Cuba to put obstacles to the satellite television broadcasts of the Pan-American Games that are going to be held in our country. Gonzalez Guerra informed the committees about this arbitrary action and has requested public rejection to these maneuvers.

In an article carried today by GRANMA newspaper, and in today's first news cast, it is reported that the U.S. State Department is creating obstacles so that agreements cannot be reached for the television broadcast via satellite of the continental games.

Chairman on U.S. 'Boycott'

FL2305163689 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, chairman of the Pan-American Games organizing committee, has charged that the United States intends to boycott the 1991 Pan-American games in Havana. Fernandez said a possible refusal of the United States to have an American television company broadcast the continental event would be a true information boycott.

Fernandez' charge is included in a message sent to Robert Helmick, chairman of the U.S. Olympic Committee. The Cuban official's exact words were: We continue receiving reports which have been obviously leaked with the purpose of letting it be known that the authorization requested for the broadcast of the games will not be granted. The letter continues: Not granting the license would be an unprecedented action and an attack to sports which should be the means for communication, friendship, and good relations among the peoples.

News Conference on Games

FL2305195089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] A news conference was held at the Cuban Olympic Committee this morning. It was called by the 1991 Pan-American games organizing committee and the Olympic Committee to report on the situation created by the U.S. plans to block television broadcasts during the games that will be held in Havana and Santiago de Cuba.

Comrade Jose Ramon Fernandez, as chairman of the games' organizing committee, explained that visas were denied recently to Reinaldo Gonzalez and Raul Villanueva, vice presidents of the INDER [National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute], who were going to Puerto Rico to develop sports exchange activities. Mr German Rieckehoff, on behalf of the Puerto Rican Olympic Committee, sent a protest note on this to the U.S. State Department.

Comrade Fernandez asserted that, in these last few days, news agencies reported stories stating that the U.S. State and Treasury Departments would not authorize the American TWI enterprise to broadcast the coming Pan-American games from Cuba. The chairman of the games' organizing committee also said this decision would completely contradict other events held in the past few years when the U.S. television has broadcast live and direct from Cuba boxing matches, volleyball, baseball, and other games to the United States. Fernandez said, this attitude is not in line with the hospitality our people have always shown when American athletes have played in Cuba.

In his statements, Comrade Fernandez stressed the correct attitude shown by the sports leaders of the Odecabe [Central American and Caribbean Sports Organization], PASO [Pan-American Sports Organization], and the

U.S. Olympic Committee, Messrs Jose Joaquin Puello, Mario Vazquez Rana, and Robert Helmick, respectively. They are making efforts on behalf of the organizations they represent to prevent this maneuver from being carried out.

Regarding Mr Helmick, Fernandez noted that he and his organization's executive committee assumed a correct attitude before and during the Indianapolis games even when the worms attempted to provoke Cuban athletes. Fernandez recalled that Cuba fulfilled its commitments by attending the Indianapolis games with a large delegation. Cuba was even the country that broadcast more television hours at the time.

Finally, Fernandez said Cuba has never used sports to obtain economic gain but added that it is fair that the country can make up for some of the expenses this type of event involves with income from television broadcasts.

At the end of his remarks, Fernandez stated that the Cuban Olympic Committee had asked all the olympic committees of America for their support and to reject the U.S. Government plans which constitute a new attack on our country.

Havana Reports Student Clashes in Beijing

FL2305153089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Chinese troops clashed with students demonstrating in a Beijing suburb this morning. It was reported that at least 40 people were wounded and that similar incidents have taken place in other areas in Beijing.

USSR Envoy on Friendship Treaty, Elections

FL2305193289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 May 89

[Interview with Yuriy Petrov, Soviet ambassador to Cuba, by reporter Daysi Gomez, on "the implementation of the Soviet-Cuban Friendship Treaty and current events in the USSR;" Petrov speaks in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Petrov] The essential aim of all our efforts is to achieve a qualitatively new level of socialism and standard of living in both nations. Therefore, the treaty is the authentic starting point opening up the way to practical tasks that we should work toward achieving. I believe it should be pointed out that following Comrade Gorbachev's visit, embassy staffers toured various Cuban provinces to inform all our comrades about the details and significance of the treaty, and also to brief them on the practical matters that should be resolved, in keeping with the agreements reached at the recent talks in Havana. I myself toured four eastern provinces. My talks with Soviets and Cubans during this tour showed that our peoples are sincerely interested in developing the fraternal relations between the two countries. Everywhere I went I sensed that the workers had a combative spirit; they wanted to do more and to do better, both Cubans and Soviets. This will be a real contribution in the implementation of the accords reached during the meetings of Comrades Mikhail Gorbachev and Fidel Castro.

[Gomez] Mr Ambassador, the congress of people's deputies will begin two sessions shortly, on 25 May. The deputies were elected recently in the most democratic elections, elections in which the Soviet people had a very conscientious participation. We would like you to talk about the importance of this congress in realizing the objectives of the renewal of the socialist process in the Soviet Union.

[Petrov] First of all, I would like to say that this will be the first congress of people's deputies in the USSR. The deputies will elect the highest organ of state government, the Supreme Soviet, which, because of its functions, differs markedly from the previous one. In particular, it will have more rights and will consist of two chambers. The deputies will work in practically permanent sessions two or three times a year for several months. For this reason, Supreme Soviet deputies who do not reside in Moscow will move to the capital, where they will live and work. The best segments of our society will be represented there: intellectuals, workers, and peasants. All of us are certain that they will govern more democratically and efficiently. That is why we are all impatiently awaiting the start of the congress, which will undoubtedly play an important role in the life of our country and our people.

SRV's Vo Nguyen Giap Visits Camaguey Center

FL2405134189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Army General Vo Nguyen Giap, president of the Vietnamese Academy of Sciences, has toured the Major General Ignacio Agramonte Mechanical Plant in Camaguey.

At the center, Vo Nguyen Giap was informed about the characteristics of this industry. The Vietnamese leader also inspected some of the products made here, including the (Ralcap) external fixtures, parts for the SUMA [Ultra Microanalytic System], and boot tips among others.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez To Visit Mozambique

FL2305165289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez is expected in Maputo tomorrow [24 May] for a 3-day visit in Mozambique. A Mozambican source said the Cuban leader's visit responds to an invitation extended by the African country's government.

Representatives Discussing Foreign Debt in Paris
FL2305154589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] In Paris, representatives of Cuba and a group of creditor countries and banks have held talks on the Cuban foreign debt. The Cuban delegation was headed by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the National Bank of Cuba. The meeting took place as part of the program to reschedule the Cuban debt. It was reported that the talks were not finished and that the two parties agreed that it is advisable to continue analyzing the situation in the near future.

Official Discusses Pope's Visit to Cuba
FL2305152889 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Jose Felipe Carneado, chief of the Religious Affairs Department of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, has begun a series of discussions at the Vatican. The Cuban official said John Paul II's coming visit to Cuba will be dealt with during those discussions. The pope's visit was announced recently by the chairman of Cuba's pontifical committee.

26th Anniversary of OAU Founding Celebrated
FL2305123689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization, AALAPSO, celebrated the 26th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity [OAU] and Africa Day with a ceremony. Present at the celebration were diplomatic representatives of various countries' liberation movements and international organizations.

Joseph Kanyenye, SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] vice president in Cuba, spoke on behalf of the African nations. Also, the vice president of AALAPSO, Rene Anillo Capote, stated that 26 years ago, 30 heads of state signed the Addis Ababa charter in Ethiopia which led to the creation of the OAU.

[Begin Anillo recording] For all these years, the OAU has had an important role in the struggle against colonialism and neocolonialism, in keeping peace between African states, and supporting the just aspirations for national and independent development. [end recording]

Polisario 16th Anniversary Celebrated
FL2305144089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The main act marking the 16th anniversary of the founding of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front and the 5th anniversary of the Youth Union of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro was celebrated at the Jose Pais Teaching School in Ciego de Avila Province.

The ceremony was presided over by Alfredo Hondal Gonzalez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and first secretary of the provincial PCC, and (Nahma Yumani), Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SADR] ambassador to Cuba.

Moments before the celebrations began, Hondal and (Yumani) unveiled a monument built by the students of this center to honor the memories of our national hero, Jose Marti, and (Divadi Mustapha), founder of the Polisario Front.

This is the fourth meeting between the three organizations of the youth union; eastern, central, and western. At the meeting there were over 360 Saharan students which are studying in various centers and provinces in the nation.

The (Ahmend Amma Ali Salem) Central Sector was chosen for this ceremony because it was the most noted center for 2 consecutive years.

Industrial Design Association Congress Opens
FL2305182789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Over 300 delegates, mainly from Cuba and Latin America, inaugurated the Fourth ALADI [Latin American Association of Industrial Design] Congress this morning. Present at the opening ceremony were Vilma Espin and Armando Hart Davalos, members of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo; Antonio Esquivel, vice president of the Council of Ministers; and Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, executive secretary of nuclear affairs.

The congress will continue until next Thursday [25 May] with roundtables, conferences, and lectures. Publication strategies of industrial design, their institutionalization, and teaching will be the subjects to be discussed. Ideas and experiences will be exchanged to strengthen the technological discipline of industrial design as a necessary vehicle for the economic, social, and cultural development of the countries of the area.

Ivan Espin, director of the National Office of Industrial Design and chairman of the Latin American Industrial Design organizing committee, stressed in his opening remarks the need to boost design activities in the region.

Castro Visits Joaquin Albarran Hospital Site
FL2405031289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] It was learned at the end of this newscast that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has visited the construction projects expanding the Joaquin Albarran Clinical-Surgical Hospital in Havana. While

there, the leader of the Revolution expressed an interest in the quality of the construction and the services that will be rendered to the population.

Speaking to the director of the center, Dr Juan Luis Villalonga, Fidel asked about the psychiatric unit which was inaugurated today. This unit has 48 beds and it is expected to be the best psychiatric installation in the city because of its qualified personnel and the most advanced technology.

The collective of workers promised the commander in chief that they would finish all the construction projects expanding the hospital during the first half of June.

Commentary on 'Shameful' Situation at Market

FL2305220389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2346 GMT 22 May 89

[Commentary by Teresa Gonzalez Abreu for "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] The Central Market, located at Reina and Amistad Streets here in Havana, is turning into a stage for deplorable incidents. Thousands of people have been going there from Tuesday to Sunday, week after week, for years. The passing of time, however, far from bringing about enlightenment and logical, sound, and suitable measures to facilitate the heavy traffic of clients and merchandise and to stop the occurrence of certain antisocial behavior, is causing the very opposite. The measures taken are illogical, absurd, and very unsuitable, so much so that they are causing disturbances, because they do not make it possible for business to be conducted as normally as possible.

It all starts before the Central Market opens its doors. Why the very ugly sight of those deteriorated, twisted iron barriers with fading paint? Why, in view of the heat and sun, should people have to stand inside these barriers for 2 to 3 hours? Whose idea was it to think that people are going to stand there without moving until 1230, when the market opens? At high noon, the supposedly orderly queue becomes such that even Dante himself would be envious. Afterward, once inside, you find that the available carts, for which you also have to stand in line, have defective wheels. More than helping, they become encumbrances you can't get rid of.

As you go on, you notice that some smart person has thought of putting the merchandise sold by weight in plastic bags that have a label with the weight and price inside. But, more than one client, smarter than the person who came up with the idea of the plastic bags, then tries to switch the label. Of course, he opens the bag and tampers with what's inside. During peak hours, it is practically impossible for the market's employees to detect who among the dozens of people is engaging in this criminal manipulation. As usual, it is the client who's the loser.

Close to 1800—in other words, closing time—with dozens and dozens of people inside and the merchandise practically exhausted, the usual question the buyer asks is whether they are going to make this or that available. The answer is invariably "no."

But—surprise—as if everyone there were the protagonist of a suspense novel, the people begin to stir, rumors start circulating, and all of a sudden there's a stampede because someone has the bright idea of bringing out a few boxes of this or that merchandise. The spectacle is truly shameful. There is no justification for it. What no one can understand is why they do it. Why put an item on sale at the last minute under these circumstances?

To put it plainly, this is not the way to do it. But they do it.

That's why the sane people among us feel, and rightly so, that there are people who enjoy this type of shameful spectacle and therefore make it happen.

Santiago de Cuba Province Exceeds Sugar Goal

FL2305120089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The 1988-1989 sugar harvest has concluded in Santiago de Cuba Province with the production of 5,000 tons of sugar of overfulfillment.

Of the eight agro-industrial centers in the province, only one, Chile, did not fulfill its quota. From the beginning of the harvest, this particular center had industrial problems, such as machinery breakdown, efficiency problems, and others.

Now, all the centers in the province are responsible for the spring sugarcane planting and keeping the fields clear of bad grasses to guarantee the production of the prime material for the next sugar campaign.

PNR Arrests 3 Citizens; Seizes Money

FL2305185589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Members of the National Revolutionary Police [PNR] have caught three unaware La Lisa Municipality citizens during a criminal act. The arrested men were caught when they were loading a truck with 22,509 packs of popular cigarettes from the house of one of the men located at 15219 67th Street, Reparto Palenque, La Lisa. The truck, with license plate HB 6261, was from the central cargo truck station.

The cigarettes were going to be sold in the free parallel market and were valued in 36,014.40 pesos. The arrested men are: Esteban Dagoberto Perdomo Gonzalez, owner of the house and worker of a technical services to

computer systems enterprise; Jose Antonio Acan Lopez and Jorge Diaz Lei, driver and passenger of the truck, respectively. The PNR seized 1,979 pesos during the house search.

Caricom

Trade Ministers To Discuss External Tariff

FL2305213689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1851 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 23, CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) trade ministers will resume their effort in June to agree on a Common External Tariff (CET) for goods imported from outside the free trade community. The ministers met in Jamaica last weekend, but according to the Caricom Secretariat, the two days were not enough to complete their work. "They therefore agreed that the special session would be resumed in late June in Grenada, immediately preceeding the 34th regular meeting of the (Common Market) Council of Ministers," the secretariat said.

The session will be just before the annual Caricom summit for July 4, and experts say that the ministers will want to complete their work for presentation to the heads of government at that time. The ministers, who are also looking at proposals for the overhaul of the rules of origin criteria for Caricom products, are working with a set of recommendations from experts, developed after more than two years of study.

The 12-member Common Market (the Bahamas, though a member of Caricom, is not part of the Common Market) has no single CET, though the more developed countries of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Guyana, have an arrangement. The CET reaches up to 70 per cent.

The proposals are for tariffs ranging from zero to 45 per cent, depending on product categories, end uses, competition with regional products and other factors.

Dominican Republic

AMD Denies Recommending Exam for Jorge Blanco

FL2305154089 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1139 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Dominican Medical Association [AMD] president denies that it has recommended a cardiologists commission to examine former President Salvador Jorge Blanco. Dr Fidel Mejia made this statement to clarify what the Republic's attorney general had said. The Republic's attorney general, Semiramis Olivo de Pichardo said she had chosen, from a list sent by the AMD, the cardiologists for the commission, and the selected doctors were: Fernando Arista Mendonza, Guaro Batista del Billar, and Radamis Cabrera, as well as Pablo Daniel Garcia, [name indistinct], and Cristiano Liberia as observers.

In response to the statement made by Olivo de Pichardo, Dr Fidel Mejia said:

[Begin Mejia recording] Since public opinion has been awaiting a commission to be selected from the AMD, we feel it is our duty to inform that we have not recommended a commission, as has been done in other situations, for other cases. The AMD evaluates each situation, and in each case, it selects the commission it feels will provide the greatest guarantee of credibility. [end recording]

The president of the AMD said that the association is more than willing to cooperate with the law; however, it refused to submit a list of cardiologists from which a commission would be selected to examine Jorge Blanco.

[Begin Mejia recording] To provide a list of the AMD doctors, from which a commission would be selected arbitrarily, would not guarantee for us, as an association, credibility because anything could happen. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Mejia reiterated that a cardiologists list has not been provided to the attorney general's office, although he did emphasize the full desire of the association to cooperate in the matter.

[Begin Mejia recording] That was the answer we gave to the Republic's attorney general when she made the request. In other words, we were willing for a commission to be selected following the procedures I have just explained. However, the AMD is not obligated to (?provide) the list. [end recording]

Law School Supports Judges' Strike 30 May

FL2305140489 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1122 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Santiago branch of the Attorneys' College has expressed support for the judges' strike scheduled for Tuesday, 30 May. Dr Nelson Gomez has said that it is impossible for the judges of the various judicial courts of the country to continue living with salaries which are under 800 pesos a month.

Dr Nelson Gomez noted: The Attorneys' College has stated that the current crisis in the judiciary is a clear reflection of how [word indistinct] the system is for Dominican society and how necessary its change is. Dr Gomez added that the judicial system of the Dominican Republic was instituted over a century ago and created for a completely different reality than the current one the Dominican nation is living. That is why every day the civil courts are packed, because we continue operating with the same number of officials and secretaries we had 60 years ago, Dr Gomez said.

The president of the northern branch of the Attorneys' College, Dr Nelson Gomez, said it is an embarrassment for the judicial system of the country that judges have to resort to borrowing typewriters from attorneys in order

to carry out their job. Dr Nelson Gomez added: We realize that today's people have the power, and the people must understand, once and for all, that there is a need to change the current situation which is making the full application of justice difficult.

Armed Civilians Occupy PRD Headquarters

FL2405022389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0156 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Armed civilians, allegedly members of the security unit of the opposition Dominican Revolution Party [PRD], today occupied PRD headquarters as the dispute intensified over the party's presidential candidate.

PRD Secretary General Hatuey Decamps said in a press conference that the self-proclamation of former President Jacobo Majluta as a candidate for the upcoming elections has eliminated any possible reunification of the party.

Majluta and the former mayor of Santo Domingo, Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, have been fighting over the leadership of the PRD for 2 years. The party's official (?division) was avoided last November by the Central Electoral Board.

In the meantime, strikes continue in Salcedo, northeast of Santo Domingo. The city has been at a total standstill for a week because of the Wide Front of the Peoples Struggle [Frente Amplio de Lucha Popular] which is demanding benefits promised by President Joaquin Balaguer.

National Police Arrest Money Changers

FL2305131689 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1114 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The National Police yesterday fought against the clandestine money-changing houses that were selling dollars and arrested several persons. Thousands of dollars were seized from persons who were arrested during the raid carried out in several areas of the capital.

Since yesterday morning agents of the secret police, under the command of Colonel (Crecencio Jaque), have been carrying out operations throughout the capital to put an end to the black market for dollars. This police raid against the clandestine money-changing houses has broken up the several networks for the commercialization and selling of dollars, among them several [word indistinct] enterprises.

The last operation carried out by the authorities occurred a little after 1700 yesterday in a money-changing house which is located at Juan Alejandro Ibarra Street, No 2. The owner of the house, Hugo Alfonso Paulino, was arrested as well as another gentleman identified as Florentino Agonde. In this operation, the agents seized $8,800. The money was immediately sent to the Central Bank as stipulated by the law. Those arrested will be placed in the hands of the judicial system, according to a report given by the Office of Public Relations of the National Police.

Grenada

Bishop Murder Appeal Hearing Resumes

FL2305190789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1507 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, May 23, CANA—The prosecution's failure to call one witness was a major talking point when the Grenada Court of Appeals resumed hearing of the Maurice Bishop murder appeal Monday. Before the court are 14 persons convicted of murdering Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, members of his cabinet and others, on October 19, 1983. Arising from the same incident, three others are serving long prison sentences for manslaughter.

On Monday, the three judges of the court were told by defence barrister Glen Cruickshank that the accused had not had a fair trial. Cruickshank said that one of the prosecutions listed witnesses, Errol George, who could have given evidence favourable to the defence, had not been called by the prosecution. Cruickshank argued that, especially as the accused were not legally represented in court at the trial, it was the duty of the trial judge, Justice Dennis Byron, to have protected the interests of the accused and to have called Errol George to the stand.

President of the court, Sir Frederick Smith, reminded Cruickshank that the accused men had been unrepresented in court because they themselves had fired their legal counsel. "They dismissed their lawyers who had been given them by the state," Sir Frederick said, "and it must be presumed that, when they did that, they knew what they were doing." Sir Frederick said further that, at the trial, the accused had charged that Judge Byron was presiding over a "kangaroo court" dominated by the United States Government. Had Judge Byron called George to the witness stand, the president said, he would have taken the risk of giving the accused further cause for complaint if George had given evidence which damaged their case.

Together with Sir Frederick, Justice Rex McKay of Guyana and Time Kendall of Antigua constitute the court now hearing appeals against the sentences handed down on December 4, 1986 after a jury had brought in guilty verdicts following a trial which lasted nine months. The appeal hearings began a year ago, on May 30 1988, with the court presided over then by Justice J.O.F. Haynes with Justices Sir Frederick Smith and Rex McKay. The death of Haynes, on December 29 last year, after the court had had 27 days of hearings, has created delays, not only until the court could be reconstituted under Sir Frederick, but because much of the work done under Haynes has to be repeated.

The convicted persons, who include former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard and his Jamaican wife Phyllis, are being defended by a team of eleven lawyers, nine of whom are being paid by the state. That team is led by Jamaican barrister, Ian Ramsay while at the head of the prosecution team are Mrs Velma Hylton, director of prosecutions, Guyanese Doodnauth Singh, senior council, Miss Margaret Wilkinson of the DPP [Director of Public Prosecutions] office and Gerald Steward, assistant to prominent Trinidad and Tobago lawyer, Karl Hudson-Phillips.

Defence council Clarence Hughs, Jacqueline Samuels-Brown and Maurice Frankson all supported arguments made by Cruickshank relative to the witness George. Additionally, defence council Delano Harrison told the court the trial judge had erred when he excluded the jury at certain times during the trial. A judge has no discretion, under any circumstances, to exclude the jury from a criminal trial without the consent of the accused, he said.

Haiti

Radio Soleil Press Review of Country Situation

FL2305201789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 May 89

[Press review]

[Excerpts] There were five dominant topics on the front pages of the weeklies: the general strike, the change in ministers, elections, insecurity, and the Army.

Most of the periodicals highlight the failure of last Tuesday's general strike and seek to identify the reason for the failure. [passage omitted]

HAITI-PROGRES feels the failure of the strike has had dual consequences. First, it has weakened the cause the strike organizers wanted to defend. The government can use it as a pretext to continue abusing people. Second, it has demoralized the masses, and the masses could now have a tendency to distrust the people's organizations. [passage omitted]

Everyone in Haiti is talking about insecurity.

HAITI EN MARCHE thinks it is difficult for anyone to claim that the insecurity is a simple matter of gangsters at work, given the increasing number of break-ins and considering that in several cases, nothing was stolen. Instead, people were intimidated. The paper, which lists a number of cases—such as the break-ins at the residences of [Radio Haiti-Inter proprietor] Jean Dominique, Dr Louis Roy, and Patrick Elie, and the [writer and journalist] Gary Victor affair—thinks that the main objective of these acts could be to prevent elections and to facilitate a brutal solution to this unending crisis in Haiti.

HAITI-OBSERVATEUR wonders if the acts of insecurity are not the work of some political sector. The insecurity (?still) has (?a single) basis, according to the paper, which talks about a similar insecurity that existed when Manigat was president. The paper notes that the more insecurity increases, the hotter the presidential chair becomes. (?Although) it is true, as per the official logic, that it is too hot for a civilian to sit in, the presidential chair could become red hot, to the point where even a canzo [in voodoo, an initiate who can handle live coals with impunity] member of the Armed Forces will not be able to sit on it. [passage omitted]

In a big headline on its front page, HAITI-OBSERVATEUR says: General Avril does not have money with which to pay the Army. The paper quotes a secret report distributed to the embassies in Washington that says: Haiti is having big problems paying the Army, while Gen Avril's fragile power is based on the military. The paper says Washington is not (?showing any compassion) for Gen Avril's situation. (?Washington) is afraid that this situation might lead soldiers having a hard time to go twist a defenseless population's arm, so to speak, to obtain money from the population. Despite all this, the paper says, several liberals in the U.S. Government remain unwilling to (?show any compassion for) Gen Avril. They are waiting for the Haitian Government to set in motion the election machinery, which they believe is still in place.

HAITI-PROGRES talks about existing division among the Presidential Guard soldiers, with some of them in favor of Avril and others against him. The paper talks about the indiscipline that allegedly exists in the camp of those who are against Avril, who do not respect their superiors, and writes: Given such a situation, Gen Avril might end up finding himself in the same place as Roger Lafontant and Henri Namphy.

All the weeklies except HAITI-PROGRES carry a letter from Himmler Rebus, who is in prison in the United States, in which he explains the situation of the officers who tried to overthrow the Haitian Government on 2 April. Himmler Rebus, who does not explain why he is being kept in prison in New York, feels the coup d'etat achieved its objective, for, he says, there will be elections held before [words indistinct], the Army is going to be organized without regard to politics, the Americans are going to resume their aid, and aid is going to (?be channeled to) each department through a citizens committee.

In connection with this case, LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR asks where Gen Avril's prisons are located.

In connection with elections, HAITI-PROGRES writes: The United States is increasingly pressuring Avril. The paper wonders if, aside from all these matters [not further identified], elections are possible. For this paper,

which is edited in New York, last week's cabinet changes are the result of pressure. Another form of pressure is the many visits Haiti is going to receive in the future.

However, certain decisions, such as the change in ministers, might displease certain people. Indeed, according to HAITI-OBSERVATEUR, the Duvalierists are not happy with the latest changes in the cabinet and with recent appointments. They see in these decisions, a will, on the part of Avril, to shunt them aside definitively. In support of this statement, HAITI-OBSERVATEUR talks of the firing of the granddaughter of one of the Duvalierist barons, Clovis Desinor, from the head of the tourism office and of the firing of Serge Elie Charles as foreign minister. The paper says the Duvalierists have a problem with this, and not just from the (?morale) point of view. It's that they would not like to lose their share of what is in the state coffers.

LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR attributes the changes in the cabinet to the U.S. Government. The periodical says that Gen Avril was obliged, despite his beliefs, to remove Anthony Virginie Saint-Pierre.

HAITI EN MARCHE says the U.S. authorities couldn't stomach Serge Elie Charles and played a role (?like that of) the Dominican authorities. In this former foreign minister, Washington saw the presence of the Duvalierists. The Miami Haitian paper writes: Regarding the information minister, the change will be meaningless unless the government cleans up the Information Ministry and removes the macoutes and the agents of foreign powers in the ministry.

JOURNAL DU COMMERCE this week talks about the transaction effected to order sugar from abroad with U.S. dollars that caused the dollar to rise to 28 percent on the parallel market last week. The $2 million that Citibank and the Banque de l'Union Haitienne reportedly released in order to buy white sugar abroad might possibly be the cause of the rise in the cost of the dollar, says JOURNAL DU COMMERCE. After discussing a (?meeting) it had with the people who ordered the sugar abroad, the paper says that if Haiti wants to control the dollars it possesses, all such transactions must go through the central bank. [passage omitted]

Dessalines-Issued Firearm Permits Canceled

FL2305184089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The Ministry of Interior and National Defense has issued a communique. In the communique, the ministry informs the public in general and everyone who carries a firearm and who obtained a permit for the weapon and a protection card from the Dessalines Barracks that all such cards have been canceled. Consequently, the ministry asks everyone with a firearm and Dessalines Barracks card in their possession to turn in these firearms to the Port-au-Prince police immediately. They were given 3 days in which to do so. We believe the deadline expired yesterday, Sunday [21 May].

If such people fail to appear, important measures will be taken against them. Their names will be published in diverse Haitian media. If, after their names have been published, such people still fail to comply with the communique, their photographs will be published in the newspapers and shown over television.

Severe legal sanctions will be taken against anyone who fails to comply with this communique issued by the Ministry of Interior and National Defense on 19 May 1989.

Special Budget Created for Electoral Council

FL2305185089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] A military government decree has created an operating 1988-89 budget, Chapter VI, entitled "Permanent Electoral Council." This budget opens, in Article 16.01.61, a special 1,413,115-gourde credit.

According to the 19 May 1989 decree, this credit is going to be put into an account for the Permanent Electoral Council at the Banque de la Republique d'Haiti. This account is going to be managed in conformity with the dispositions of the law on the budget and public accounting.

This credit is going to permit the Permanent Electoral Council, an independent institution that was not provided for in the 1988-89 budget, to cover certain preliminary expenses so that it can function while waiting for the government to adopt a definitive budget for it.

This is a press release from the Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination.

Editorial Praises Government's Stand on Panama

PA2305150989 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 May 89 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Diplomatic Struggle Without Fanfare or Isolation"]

[Text] Based on experience and following the specific examples of Cuba and Nicaragua, international public opinion hoped the reaction to the recent decision of the Organization of American States (OAS) on Panama would be drastic, harsh, or antagonistic.

The Latin American nations, well aware of the vital need to preserve their sovereignty, independence, and right to self-determination in domestic affairs, were firm and zealous in deciding to defuse the threat, had the wrong path been taken, of reviving the "ministry of colonies" role of a supranational organization called upon to carry out actions of unity and understanding, rather than the role of an uncompromising power.

The thesis of reserving for Latin American governments the right to confront and resolve their own difficulties has always been a principle that cannot be underestimated. Whether or not it wanted to, the U.S. Government, perhaps accidentally, has contributed to strengthening that thesis by returning the ball to the court of Latin American decisionmaking. Now it is without question that Panama's domestic tranquillity and peace will result from a dialogue to preserve continental unity and guarantee the fulfillment of bilateral treaties that are naturally of multilateral interest.

Of course, there was a desire to create conditions that would permit the annulment of the Carter-Torrijos canal treaties. Mexico said no to such a possibility, arguing that the Panama Canal treaties were and should remain inviolable.

Also, to those who tried to turn the OAS into an appeals court—a supreme judge—Mexico, extolling the defense of autonomy, noted that it was an intolerable stance. This is because interference in the rights of others is even less conceivable in matters of bilateral agreements that affect the existence of a service that is multilaterally shared.

From that viewpoint, it was clearly evident that the solution proposed by the OAS merited broad acceptance by the two adversaries in Panama's civil life. The OAS resolution contains in its salient points Mexico's position, which stresses the preservation of hemispheric unity to enable building a destiny on the path to democracy.

On the question of Noriega, it is good to point out that some governments, many times in wishing to preserve amicable relations with the majority, suffer a weakening of principles. At the same time, our peoples also have a tendency to firmly defend democracy and firmly reject leadership by force. Viewed from the South, there was undoubtedly a rejection of the attitude of Manuel Antonio Noriega. This appreciation allowed us to see that our country cannot be isolated just to defend an indefensible person.

Viewed from the North, it is clear that no responsible government has the right to risk the viability of agreements of national and hemispheric interest to silence something that should not be silenced.

The problem of Panama, the OAS attitude, and necessary reflection on the priorities of people's general interest are ingredients that must be considered. Mexico's contribution has been so firm and clear that it is instilled in the spirit of the recommended solutions, which won the acceptance of the Panamanian opposition politicians.

It is true that one runs the risk of choosing the wrong path, but undoubtedly this time Mexico acted wisely, because it acted in keeping with its traditional position of respect.

Assessments have a positive value when they support the end result. To give an a priori opinion and find "contradictions" between our strong stand of nonintervention and condemnation of an element of the problem shows a lack of depth. Nothing is more convincing than recognition of the facts in the light of calm reflection. It is not vain to say that the Panamanian political factions have valued Mexico's position more than many here. If this is not enough to maintain a positive attitude, where can a more adequate measure be found?

Diplomatic Source Explains Vote Against Noriega

FL2305210989 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1852 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Mexico City, 23 May (NOTIMEX)—A Mexican diplomatic source has said that in the case of the Panamanian crisis, Mexico has defended the greater over the lesser....It was able to prevent interventionist positions promoted by the United States and, even though it hurts to admit it, by several important Latin American governments.

The source explained the Mexican position in light of the political crisis affecting Panama, and stressed that recognizing geopolitical circumstances and realizing the impact of an interdependency does not mean serving the strategic interests of the United States.

Quite the contrary, the source added. It means gaining space for Mexico—space that would otherwise be taken up by the national security interests of the United States.

Our foreign policy actions are based on the principles that nurture it, but this policy also modifies its mechanisms to keep the country from being weighed down by nostalgia while intense changes are going on around it.

On 14 May, Mexico regretted that following the presidential elections, the situation in Panama was made worse by the personal stance of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, whose moral and ethical reputation has been discredited.

The diplomatic source said that at the OAS, Mexico protected the validity of the (Panama-United States) canal treaties, and prevented the forum from becoming an electoral court of appeals.

The foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago, and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, are being sent to Panama to help pave the way for national reconciliation in Panama with total respect for the sovereign will of the country, the source added.

Likewise, the source stressed that Mexico's position (at the OAS) made consensus possible, and the resolution was approved even by the Panamanian Government.

Mexico voted against Gen Noriega. This soldier does not represent the Panamanian people. He is a de facto ruler who uses civilians for his own personal gain, the Mexican diplomat said.

Therefore, the source added, there is no doubt about this: The Panamanian people must decide what to do with Noriega; however, it is clear to Mexico that Noriega's tyranny cannot be compared to the Cuban and Nicaraguan popular revolutions.

Those revolutions, he stressed, were defended by Mexican diplomacy. However, Mexico cannot jeopardize its principles or its prestige for Noriega.

The source added that the challenge to Mexico's foreign policy is to adjust its strategies to the intense processes of change as seen in the relations among superpowers, as well as in the internal situations of the Soviet Union, China, Poland, and other nations.

In light of this situation, and regarding the Panamanian crisis, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat source said that Mexico could have stood fast on a position, opposing any OAS effort; it could have supported Noriega and condemned the U.S. maneuvers.

This would not only have led to a confrontation between the United States and Latin America but a negative vote would have closed our doors to participation in a constructive effort.

However, the Foreign Secretariat source added, supporting initiatives aimed at turning the OAS into an electoral tribunal would have been against the principles established in the organization's charter and against Mexico's foreign policy.

Therefore, the position that Mexico adopted—that is, giving the OAS the task of seeking national conciliation with full respect for the sovereignty of the Panamanian people—found support from even Nicaragua and Panama.

The official believes that in the Panamanian case, Mexico's foreign policy has regained its political stature.

Salinas Congratulates SFRY Counterpart
PA2305162789 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 19 May 89 p 5

[Message of congratulations from President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to SFRY President Janez Drnovsek on 18 May]

[Text] I have the pleasure of addressing Your Excellency to state my sincere congratulations on the beginning of your term as SFRY president.

I wish you success in your honorable responsibilities. I also hope the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two nations will be further developed.

I take advantage of this opportunity to state to Your Excellency my highest considerations.

Drug Interdiction Plan on Border To Continue
FL2305153589 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Javier Coello Trejo, deputy attorney general in charge of investigating and fighting drug trafficking, has said that the special drug interdiction plan implemented 52 days ago on the northern border will continue for as long as it is needed. Coello Trejo added that in the 5 months since the plan was conceived, it has been possible to halt 96 percent of the drugs that were on their way to the U.S. market. Coello Trejo stressed that no commander of the Federal Judicial Police [PJF]—Fausto Valverde, Calderoni, or anyone else—have any link whatsoever with the drug trafficking sect discovered in Tamaulipas.

Regarding the special border operation, Coello Trejo said:

[Begin Trejo recording] We are not bringing it to an end. We are going to reinforce it further. We are going to replace personnel, because those in place are getting tired. We are bringing in fresh personnel. This operation is definitely not going to be halted. We are going to redouble vigilance.

I am very surprised that certain media, especially in the northern part of the republic, are allowing themselves to be swayed by rumors. I am sorry that the media—which do serious work and are highly respected—are mentioning PJF commanders who have nothing to do with it. These commanders have the complete confidence of the Attorney General's Office. The media have been linking

people like Commander Fausto Valverde and Commander Gonzalez Calderoni, who have done an excellent job in the PJF Narcotics Department, to drug trafficking scandals. [end recording]

Finance Secretariat Gives Quarterly Report
PA2305145089 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 May 89 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Text] The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat and the Programming and Budget Secretariat reported yesterday that the federal government's public spending during the 1st quarter of 1989 amounted to 7.2057 trillion pesos, representing a 15.5 percent drop in expenses compared to the same period in 1988.

According to the report on the January-March 1989 status of public finances, which was sent to the Chamber of Deputies, the federal government's direct expenditures represented 53.8 percent of total transactions approved for the entire year.

In the document, the secretariats note that "strict control over public finances will be maintained, because this is a basic ingredient in reducing inflation."

In addition, they point out that while not neglecting the expenses necessary to meet social needs requiring immediate attention, budget programming is aimed at establishing "a position of strength in the negotiation process with foreign creditors."

The report notes that within the framework of these policies, there was a "substantial" reduction in public spending, i.e., 62 percent in real terms from January to March when compared to the first quarter of 1988. The report points out that total resources used by the public sector during this period amounted to 6.361 trillion pesos and deposits amounted to 5.8035 trillion pesos.

Of these resources, 179.5 billion pesos were devoted to credits for the social and private sectors and the remaining 5.624 trillion pesos to the deficit, which was 58.4 percent lower in real terms than the amount corresponding to the same period in 1988.

The secretariats pointed out that in the effort to consolidate public finances to make them "more sound"—not taking into account the interest on the debt—the primary surplus amounted to 11.286 trillion pesos and that, when compared to 1988, the net earnings from operations to reduce the debt reflect a real growth of 4.2 percent.

The report, which also includes an overview of the economic situation, points out that industrial output grew 2.5 percent during the first 2 months of 1989 when compared to the same period last year, and that this resulted from an increase of 3.1 percent in the manufacturing sector, 5.7 percent in the electricity sector, 3.1 percent in the construction sector, and a 1.6 percent drop in the mining sector.

Based on the number of permanent employees insured by the IMSS [Mexican Social Security Institute], employment increased 5.4 percent, with an additional 50,194 employees insured from January to March. Regarding prices, the report points out that following an inflation rate of 2.4 percent, which resulted from price adjustments for goods and services carried over to January, the monthly inflation rate improved, having dropped to 1.4 and 1.1 percent.

Therefore, the annual inflation rate—from March 1988 to March 1989—was only 21.1 percent. "Such a small increase for a 12-month period has not been observed since 1979. This rate is substantially lower than the 175.8 percent registered between March 1987 and March 1988."

The supply of staple goods, which increased 2.7 percent in January, registered rates of 0.3 percent in January and 0.4 percent in March, for an overall accumulated rate of 3.4 percent. The increase during the same period last year was 10.6 percent.

According to the two secretariats, this inflation behavior, along with what has been observed regarding the national price index for producers—which, because of the PECE [Economic Growth and Stability Pact], registered during the 3-month period monthly variations of 1.8 in January, .08 percent in February, and 1.2 percent in March—show "the efficacy of the economic policy and the national agreement." This allowed the real average monthly salary to be 2.2 percent higher during January-March 1989 than during the same period in 1988.

Money in circulation was increased in response to the increased demand resulting from the substantial decrease in the inflation rate. This, together with increased real income offered through the financial system, led to a growth in savings since the end of last year.

In this regard, the document emphasized that the average financial savings for the 1st quarter, as defined in the expanded monetary aggregate, the overall amount of securities in circulation, not counting paper money and coins, increased 23.5 percent in real terms. [sentence as published] The banks' collection of traditional securities went from 71.9 percent of the total in 1988 to 29.5 percent from January-March of this year, and the money in circulation registered a real annual variation of 14.2 percent. This, it was reaffirmed, was caused by an increase in the demand for money due to the decreased inflation.

Another manifestation of this is the 12.6-percent growth, in real terms since last December, of commercial banks' March balances in financing businesses and individuals.

Foreign Sector

The report to the Chamber of Deputies emphasized the decrease in imports in January 1989, which amounted to $1.6643 billion compared to the monthly total of

$1.8061 billion for the first quarter of 1988. This, and a 5.4-percent increase in exports to $1.7632 billion resulting from the rise in oil prices, left a trade balance surplus of $98.8 million.

Between September and December 1978 [as published] Mexico had a trade balance deficit.

Nevertheless, the international situation, with the exception of oil, had an unfavorable impact on the national economy. This is because in the 1st quarter of the year the economic situations of the developed countries, primarily the United States, improved, and this resulted in an increase in interest rates.

The U.S. prime rate, which increased 1.75 percent last year, increased 1 percent in the first quarter of this year to 11.5 percent, "its highest level since 1985." The LIBOR [London Inter-Bank Offering Rate]—the rate covering most of Mexico's 3- and 6-month debts—increased 1.1 and 1.3 percent over its December level, reaching 10.4 and 10 percent, respectively.

Income and Subsidies

The finance and public credit and planning and budget secretariats mentioned in their report that the constant auditing and administrative simplification campaigns as well as the modification of various tax laws produced 19.495 trillion pesos for the federal government. The oil sector contributed 5.8198 trillion pesos in taxes, 21.2 percent more than during the same period last year. Income taxes produced 6.7792 trillion pesos, or 12.9 percent more; the value added tax, 3 trillion pesos, or 7 percent more; and other income and taxes aside from income taxes produced the rest.

There is no report on the fixed assets tax, because this just began in April.

On budgeted expenses, the federal government spent 3.2206 trillion pesos on payrolls from January through March; 254.3 billion on general services; 85.7 billion on materials and supplies; and 92.3 billion on extraordinary expenses.

Capital expenditures or public investments amounted to 231.9 billion pesos, 10.5 percent less than the government spent for the first quarter of 1988.

As part of the policy to rationalize subsidies, "although it is the present administration's purpose to end them altogether," the secretariats reported total transfers from January through March of 3.3299 trillion pesos, 22.6 percent less in real terms than for the same period in 1988. The parastatal enterprises absorbed 45 percent, and the remainder went to those outside the budget—nonappropriated funds [apoyos extraordinarios]—55 percent.

Lower Debt Expense

Under the heading of unbudgeted expenses without taking into consideration the domestic and foreign debt, the secretariats listed 17.3752 trillion pesos, of which 14 trillion were for interest and closing expenses. This was 40.2 percent less in real terms than the previous year. More than 2 trillion pesos were spent for government participation programs and incentives, and almost a trillion were spent to pay debts of prior fiscal periods.

Net expenditures—budgeted and unbudgeted—amounted to 24.5809 trillion pesos, 32.9 percent less.

The policies implemented allowed for a 1.3413-trillion peso reduction of the foreign debt during the 1st quarter of 1989.

Economic Studies Group Urges Privatization

FL2305202389 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 May 89 p 5

[By Alberto Navarrete Jimenez]

[Text] The private sector yesterday demanded the completion of the structural changes that were begun by the previous administration. The sector believes that the process of change under way in the country "is aimed in the right direction, because it is consonant with what we need to face the current serious problems." However, it added, the details of a plan to help us achieve this still have to be worked out.

Through the Private Sector's Center for Economic Studies [CEESP], the businessmen said that it should become a priority task to complete the plans that were carried out to reduce state control over the economy and deregulate it, modify the tax system, and abolish the price control system as soon as the current phase of the PECE [Economic Growth and Stability Pact] is over.

In an analysis entitled "Mexico: A Changing Economy," the CEESP said that the plan to reduce state intervention should continue to be implemented. The state should reduce "not only its regulatory capacity by simplifying rules and regulations and chipping away at the bureaucratic apparatus," but direct participation as well.

This will require speeding up the process of divesting the state of parastate enterprises that are not of strategic or priority interest, and increasing the efficiency of those that are.

It is necessary to change the tax structure from the present system—basically a collection system—to a fiscal system that will encourage investment by reducing the tax rates. This will discourage tax evasion and consequently increase the number of taxpayers.

According to the CEESP document, another priority task should be the elimination of price controls in the domestic market because it "is incongruous to speak of opening up the economy to the world while one is keeping a lid on domestic trade." The private sector experts believe that in foreign trade, "there is a need for long term regulations and for a plan to really boost our exports."

Regarding financial policy, the experts said that steps must be taken to eliminate the "state's single-handed control over banking matters," to maintain a strategy of positive real interest rates, and to eliminate financial subsidies and control of foreign exchange.

On the foreign debt, the CEESP believes that the current renegotiation "should complement, and not replace, the still needed austerity in government spending." The CEESP is concerned over the cutback in the investment program, because it "is jeopardizing Mexico's future needlessly, while there are still other areas in the national budget that can be trimmed."

The business association believes that a policy of real changes is needed in the agricultural sector, because "a true structural reform has not been achieved" despite all attempts in this direction. To the contrary, it said, the Economic Solidarity Pact put into effect in December 1987 "worsened an already critical situation" because its price and marketing policies discouraged farming activities.

Mexicana Airline No Longer Parastate Company
FL2305164989 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] To foster the modernization of the air transportation sector and contribute to the development of the national economy, the Compania Mexicana de Aviacion will no longer be a parastate company. The Finance Secretariat announced that this move will bring in fresh funds to renew the fleet of airplanes, purchase new equipment, ensure the airline's viability, and protect this source of employment.

The secretariat has tasked the Banco Internacional with handling the divestiture of the Compania Mexicana de Aviacion. To make sure that the admission of new shareholders is entirely aboveboard and that the current minority shareholders are treated fairly, the Finance Secretariat announced that administration of the airline would be granted, through a bid process, to the group of investors with recognized management ability and proven moral values that makes the most favorable offer.

The secretariat said that any foreign investment in the airline will be handled according to the new rules drawn up by the Commerce Secretariat.

Costa Rica

Flow of Panamanians Into Country Decreases

PA2305194889 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] According to reports from the Public Security Ministry, the flow of Panamanians into our country has decreased over the past few days.

Several Panamanians arrived in our country when the situation in that country began to deteriorate following the 7 May elections. However, encouraged by the announcement that an OAS delegation would travel to that country to verify that General Manuel Antonio Noriega will relinquish power, the flow of Panamanians has dropped, and many who had sought refuge in our country have returned home. An example of this are 17 Panamanian citizens who yesterday left Costa Rica to return to their country.

El Salvador

FMLN Admits, Deplores Civilian Casualties

PA2405014889 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0005 GMT 24 May 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command in El Salvador on 23 May]

[Text] Communique from the FMLN General Command to all the Salvadoran people and to all our supporters, commanders, and fighters:

1. Given the latest incidents, in which civilians suffered casualties and property damage as a result of operations carried out by our forces, the FMLN General Command reports that, based on the principle that the truth is revolutionaries' most powerful weapon, we acknowledge to our people that we have made mistakes in procedures, plans, tactics, and the manufacturing of weapons that have had direct and indirect negative repercussions on the civilian population. These accidents include those that occurred while using mobile artillery platforms, known as car bombs in urban areas; accidents caused by booby traps; artillery fire that accidentally hit civilian targets; or indirect damage caused to property owned by the people during our sabotage actions.

Within this framework, we report the deplorable incident involving the minibus on the highway to Tacachico on 22 May, something that we deeply deplore.

The FMLN believes it necessary and urgent to avoid the continuation of this situation as a matter of principle, and to stop the enemy from continuing to use our errors to carry out its dirty war plans.

The FMLN General Command strongly urges all its commanders and fighters to keep in mind that appropriate weapons, accurate tactics and procedures, and strict plans must be used in each operation to avoid, at all costs, any damage to the civilian population.

We will not remain undisturbed when civilians are injured and when it is determined that it was the result of an intentional action and not of a mistake. We have already taken strict measures in the past whenever we detected banditry, rape, [words indistinct].

We represent the people's army in their democratic struggle, and we struggle to defend their moral and material interests.
[Signed] FMLN General Command
El Salvador, 23 May 1989

Military Reports on FMLN 22 May Attacks

PA2305141989 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0341 GMT 23 May 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Excerpts] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has claimed it inflicted at least 34 casualties on the Army during a nationwide offensive launched early this morning. According to the FMLN, its forces attacked military positions in 10 towns in 6 departments in the country's interior. The FMLN report added that two civilians were killed when guerrillas and the Army clashed in San Jose Guayabal, Cuscatlan Department.

Residents of San Isidro, Cabanas Department, confirmed one soldier was killed and three wounded during an attack on the local military post. Also, two Civil Defense members died during a rebel attack on Villa El Congo, Santa Ana Department.

Meanwhile, fourteen private homes were damaged and at least one guerrilla was killed during an FMLN attack on San Miguel de Mercedes, Chalatenango Department. According to Colonel Ivan Reinaldo Diaz, explosives were launched with catapults at soldiers of the 1st Military Detachment. The attack failed, however, as there were no casualties among the soldiers.

[Begin Col Diaz recording] A group of approximately 100 terrorists tried to enter San Miguel de Mercedes. Our troops detected the terrorists early enough to prevent them from entering the town. When the guerrillas realized that their attempts to enter the town had failed, they began launching explosives indiscriminately. As a result of that cowardly terrorist action, 14 houses belonging to poor families in San Miguel de Mercedes were partially destroyed. [end recording]

The military added that the guerrillas wanted to destroy the ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications] office, the municipal building, and the

machinery being used by the Public Works Ministry to repair the access roads to San Miguel de Mercedes. The rebels did not accomplish their mission but instead damaged the civilian population's property. [passage omitted]

Soldiers of the 1st Military Detachment combed the area to determine the exact number of FMLN guerrillas killed or wounded. Bloodstains found in the area indicate many rebels were killed or wounded. Nevertheless, despite the moments of terror experienced by San Miguel de Mercedes' population early this morning, life quickly returned to normal—so much so that students participated in a parade at 1000.

Guatemala

Cerezo Says Panama May Cause Regional Problems

FL2305220489 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1930 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 May (NOTIMEX)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said today that Panama's current crisis may cause problems of a strategic and security nature for all of Latin America. The president said that basic principles in Panama could be broken, such as that of nonintervention.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Palencia today departed for Panama as part of an OAS commission that will try to help solve the crisis in that country.

Cerezo stressed the need to create an opening in order to recognize the peoples will (in Panama), diminish tension, and to find a peaceful mechanism to solve the problem.

The crisis in Panama worsened during the past presidential elections which were nullified after the two principal candidates claimed victory amid intense cries of fraud in favor of the government candidate.

New Paramilitary Group Threatens Union Members

FL2305151789 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1810 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 22 May (NOTIMEX)— The Trade Union of Guatemalan Workers (UNSITRAGUA) has reported the appearance of a new paramilitary group, the self-styled The Justice-Seekers [Los Justicieros].

UNSITRAGUA reported today that The Justice-Seekers group has threatened two of its members, Natividad Peron de Fernandera and Luisa Carlota Perez, warning them to drop out of the union and move from the capital if they want to stay alive. [passage omitted]

Honduras

Finance Minister Resigns To Run for Congress

FL2305173089 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 23 May 89 p 3

[Text] Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo will decide today who will be appointed to head the Finance and Public Credit Ministry in replacement of Jose Efrain Bu Giron, who resigned from office yesterday to run for deputy in the upcoming elections. Bu Giron resigned in accordance with the Electoral and Political Organizations Law.

President Azcona refused to disclose the name of the person he will appoint; however, it has been said that presidential adviser Carlos Falck will be the new minister.

Also today, President Azcona will decide on the persons who will replace other officials who have resigned to run in the upcoming elections.

Contra, U.S. Troop Removal Requested

FL2305171789 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 22 May 89 p 25

["Open letter" to President Jose Azcona, National Congress President Carlos Montoya, Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, and Supreme Court President Salomon Jimenez Castro, from civic and popular organizations, issued in Tegucigalpa on 10 May]

[Text] Your Excellency Jose Azcona, president of the Republic of Honduras

Your Excellency Carlos Montoya, president of the National Congress

Your Excellency General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, commander of the Honduran Armed Forces

Your Excellency Salomon Jimenez Castro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice.

We respectfully address you in our capacity as Honduran citizens and members of civic and popular organizations, under the protection of the constitutional principles and in defense of the nation's constitution that states:

Article 1 C: Honduras is a de jure state, sovereign, constituted as a free, democratic, and independent republic to ensure that its inhabitants enjoy justice, freedom, culture, and social and economic well-being.

Article 2 C: Sovereignty belongs to the people from whom emanate all powers of the state, which are exercised by representation. Supplantation of the people's sovereignty and usurpation of established powers are considered acts of

treason to the homeland. Responsibility for any such actions is unshirkable, and charges can be leveled by the government or at the request of any citizen.

Based on the principles established in the Constitution we believe that the U.S. military bases, established as a result of the contra presence, violate our constitution and offend national dignity.

This occupation by foreign troops and unconventional forces in addition to representing a serious threat to the safety of the Honduran people also insults our electoral process and proves that democracy and foreign troop occupation are incompatible.

With the Esquipulas II peace agreements signed in August 1987, hopes for peace and justice were born for the Honduran people and the peoples of the world. However, these hopes were destroyed by the constant violations of human rights and the Honduran Government's yielding to a policy drafted in Washington.

In February 1989, during the meeting of the Central American presidents in El Salvador it was decided that the contras had to leave Honduras.

This decision was applauded by the Honduran people and the world.

The patriotic commitment made by President Jose Azcona and the other heads of state had a great historic dimension because Honduras reaffirmed its self-determination and its sovereignty. By claiming its rights established in the OAS and UN charters, Honduras gained the support of the Central American nations and the world.

The deadline for the contra demobilization from Honduras and the implementation of the Esquipulas II peace agreement and the El Salvador accord expires on 15 May 1989. If our government does not abide by this it will mean that it does not respect our constitution or the internationally supported agreements.

Honorable gentlemen:

Our people are tired of so much humiliation by the contras, the U.S. troops, the displaced, and the refugees in their own land; our people are hurt when they see foreign soldiers occupying our land while the peasants have no land to sow. The contra hospitals in Honduras are better equipped than the hospitals that provide medical care to the Honduran people.

Furthermore, the best rehabilitation centers in the world are located in Tegucigalpa and these are for the use of the contras. The Honduran people do not know whether they are eligible to use these facilities.

In light of the above, we express our firm patriotic determination struggle for the demobilization of the contra and U.S. troops from Honduras.
Tegucigalpa, 10 May 1989
Union of the National Power Company Workers [Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Empresa Nacional de Energia Electrica]
Christian Democratic Youth
Union of the Garment Industry and Related Workers [Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Industria de Confeccion de Ropa y Similares]
Daniel Gonzalez (Jeronimo) [not further identified]
People's Organizations Coordinating Committee
Union of Medical, Hospital, and Related Workers
Visitacion Padilla Honduran Committee of Women in Favor of Peace
National Federation of Rural Workers.

Foreign Ministry Denies Hindering Peace Process

FL2305194989 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 23 May 89 p 3

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday denied that Honduras is hindering the Central American peace process or that it is blocking the use of UN military observers in the area.

The clarification was made after the ASSOCIATED PRESS carried a report in which UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar allegedly accuses Honduras of working against peace in the region.

Honduras has not hindered the peace process through alleged efforts to sabotage the creation of a UN border patrol in Central America, as Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto is saying.

Honduran Foreign Ministry spokesman Eugenio Castro added that Honduras suggested the creation of an international verification group in the United Nations and also supported the requests made in November 1988 and January 1989.

Honduras, Eugenio Castro added, has promoted the creation of a verification group as an international peace force. This proves that Honduras is not blocking any action attempted by the United Nations.

The spokesman for the Honduran Foreign Ministry added, however, that Nicaragua must first drop its charges against Honduras since Honduras is the most interested in the pacification of Central America.

Castro added that the UN secretary general asked the representatives of the Central American countries to refrain from disclosing the contents of the Security Council document regarding Honduras' request in order to avoid problems; why this matter is being disclosed now is not known.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that he does not believe Perez de Cuellar made those charges because all he did was release the Honduran and Nicaraguan notes as an official Security Council document. A note sent by Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras to the UN secretary general clearly states that Nicaragua has not taken any steps to drop its charges against Honduras and that Honduras is interested in the creation of a verification commission as soon as Nicaragua keeps the promises it made in Costa del Sol, El Salvador.

Honduras is interested in the creation of the commission but has expressed its reservations in light of Nicaragua's refusal to withdraw its charges.

Nicaragua

Ortega Urges Prompt Demobilization of Contras

PA2305222289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2105 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Managua, 23 May (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega reiterated today that his Central American colleagues must ratify "as soon a possible" the plan for the demobilization of the "contras" instead of waiting for the new regional presidential "summit," which, he said, "we do not even know if it will be held."

Managua diplomatic sources said that Salvadoran President-elect Alfredo Cristiani requested at least 2 months after his inauguration to make a decision regarding the next presidential meeting.

During a brief meeting with reporters, after receiving the credentials of Jose Mario Maldonado, the new Honduran ambassador to Nicaragua, Ortega said that the agreement for the dismantling of the irregular forces in Honduras "must be ratified now."

President Ortega said that it is still not known which area presidents will attend the Salvadoran presidential inauguration on 1 June.

"In the exchanges we have had (with the presidents), we have not discussed taking advantage of the inauguration of (Alfredo) Cristiani to discuss these matters, but I think that we must not wait to demobilize the contras," Ortega insisted.

The Nicaraguan president recalled that the regional deputy foreign ministers approved by consensus in Guatemala early this month a draft plan for the demobilization, repatriation, and relocation of the anti-Sandinists.

"All the Central American presidents have this draft plan, and it must be ratified immediately in order to begin to withdraw the contras (some 8,000 armed men) from Honduras," Ortega stated.

The Central American presidents agreed at the "summit" in El Salvador on 13 and 14 February to implement a plan to dismantle the "contras."

"Therefore," Ortega explained, "the Central American presidents are committed to ratify what was already approved at the summit and at the meeting of deputy foreign ministers in Guatemala."

For its part, the Honduran Government noted that before the rebels are dismantled, Managua must withdraw the suit filed at the International Court of Justice at The Hague against Honduras, which is accused of lending its territory to the United States to attack Nicaragua.

On this point, Ortega insisted that Honduras must first fulfill its obligations, "which is to withdraw the contras from Honduran territory, because Honduras is violating international law."

Ortega recalled that Honduran President Jose Azcona clearly stated at the meeting in El Salvador that "the process of removing the contras from Honduras was not conditioned on the possible withdrawal by Nicaragua of the suit filed at The Hague."

"If the contras disappear from Honduras, there will be a new situation that we will have to analyze," the Nicaraguan president stated.

Panama

Reportage on OAS Delegate Arrivals, Reaction

Trinidad-Tobago's Basdeo

PA2305133489 Paris AFP in Spanish 0640 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 22 May (AFP)—Trinidadian and Tobagan Foreign Minister Sahadeo Basdeo said in Panama City tonight that the OAS special mission is not coming to meddle in Panama's domestic affairs but to "build understanding" among Panamanians.

"We have come as friends, as neighbors, and, above all, as representatives of a country that has the same goals and aspirations as Panama," Basdeo said after arriving at Panama City's airport, where he was met by his Panamanian counterpart Jorge Ritter.

Basdeo is part of a special delegation sent by the OAS, as agreed to by the OAS foreign ministers on 17 May in Washington, D.C., to propose ways of agreement between the government and the opposition, thus solving the crisis caused by the annulment of the 7 May elections. The rest of the mission, comprising Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Palencia, and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, will arrive in Panama City on Tuesday, 23 May. Their first meeting will be with

Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma. Basdeo said the group will meet with the government, political parties, the church, businessmen, and ordinary Panamanian citizens.

When questioned about the progovernment media's charges that the OAS is taking an interventionist position toward Panama, Basdeo said he did not think this was the case, since Panamanian Foreign Minister Ritter himself had supported the delegation's visit.

Ritter, meanwhile, said Panama considers the delegation's arrival as "positive," despite the fact that some of the points in the OAS foreign ministers' resolution do not include Panama's broader problems, especially Panama's conflict with the United States. Ritter said: "We think the OAS delegates' goal is praiseworthy. They are seeking a compromise to achieve national harmony."

Ritter said he does not think the group is arriving with preconceived notions or with the purpose of condemning heads of state or of interfering with the latter's work. "If this is indeed the case, we welcome the group," he stressed.

Ritter considered the "transfer of power" mentioned in the OAS resolution to refer to "the way to establish the rules of the game within the framework of Panama's political struggle."

Ritter said the resolution's referral to the Panamanian people's sovereignty alluded to the 7 May elections, which have already been annuled. He added that the important issue now is to find a compromise.

The Panamanian opposition has accused the government of having attempted a gigantic fraud during the elections. It also says that any negotiation must begin with a recognition of the opposition's election victory.

OAS Secretary General

PA2305154389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1522 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 May (AFP)—OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares arrived today in Panama City heading an OAS delegation that will seek ways of agreement to overcome the Panamanian crisis.

Baena Soares arrived at Omar Torrijos International Airport at 0950. He was met by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister

PA2305203289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1940 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 May (EFE)—Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, who arrived in Panama today as a member of an OAS mission, said "Panamanians must solve the political crisis" that began after the 7 May elections.

Upon his arrival at Panama City's airport, Cordovez said the OAS mission "is not coming to mediate" but to promote "means of reconciliation" between the government and the opposition.

Cordovez, who was met at Omar Torrijos Airport by his Panamanian counterpart Jorge Ritter, said: "We cannot speak of mediation or of any other similar kinds of efforts; we are only coming to find means of reconciliation." According to Cordovez, the OAS mission is "a goodwill gesture that should not be misinterpreted, because that would only prolong finding a solution."

Cordovez, the foreign ministers of Guatemala and Trinidad-Tobago, and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares are the members of the OAS mission. Cordovez declined to answer questions from the media.

Cordovez, who said he was "pleased" to be in Panama, pointed out: "At the last OAS foreign ministers meeting, we agreed not to make any separate statements to the press. We will be making joint statements."

In his brief statements, Cordovez stressed the OAS resolution on Panama "is a Latin American effort based on the clear principles we respect." He said he represents a government that "believes both democracy and the principle of nonintervention should be respected."

Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, meanwhile, said Cordovez' statements were "very good." Ritter said the OAS mission's purpose in visiting Panama is to "bring about a dialogue among Panamanians and to promote an understanding."

Ritter explained: "I think if the OAS manages to bring about an agreement among Panamanians, the OAS will become stronger." He added that if an agreement is not achieved, "it will not be a failure on the part of the OAS mission. It will be a general [words indistinct] will have lunch with the OAS foreign ministers to discuss their stay in Panama.

The OAS delegates will be meeting with Manuel Solis Palma, Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency, at 1500. Afterward, the mission will go to a Panama City hotel to meet with other government and opposition leaders.

Opposition Dialogue To Begin

PA2305191089 Paris AFP in Spanish 1841 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 May (AFP)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter today said General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime may begin a dialogue with the opposition this week to overcome the serious crisis that erupted after the 7 May elections.

According to reports in Panama City, the dialogue may take place through the mediation of a special OAS commission that arrived in Panama today to promote an understanding between the two parties.

Delegation Discusses Situation

PA2405011489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2342 GMT 23 May 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] An OAS delegation arrived in Panama today. The delegation is made up of three foreign ministers and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares. With last night's arrival of the Trinidadian and Tobagan foreign minister, our country became a fertile ground for dialogue and the search for its own identity as a nation. The OAS has tasked three foreign ministers to seek, together with Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, an agreement to reach a solution. The foreign ministers and the secretary general have all arrived in the country. They were welcomed at the Omar Torrijos Airport by Panamanian Foreign Minister Dr Jorge Eduardo Ritter on behalf of the Panamanian Government. They will be in Panama through Saturday, in accordance with a resolution issued by the OAS, which will be expecting a report on the visit on 5 June.

The first person to arrive last night was Bhoe Tewarie, the foreign minister of Trinidad and Tobago [name and title as heard, Tewarie is Minister Without Portfolio], who said:

[Tewarie] "It is a great honor for us to be part of this group and this effort. We believe that as part of our efforts, we will try to respect the democratic will of the Panamanian people and try to help, support, and solve any problem you may have, which could serve as a precedent for other countries on other occasions."

Foreign Minister Ritter and the OAS representative in Panama, (Evelio Fargoni), went to the Omar Torrijos Airport to welcome OAS Secretary General Baena Soares and his delegation. In a brief talk with the local and international media, and particularly with Televisora Nacional, Baena Soares spoke about his mission in Panama.

[Baena Soares] "We will hold a meeting in Panama, after we have held a meeting at the OAS headquarters. We will discuss what we have to do, and we will comply with the request of the OAS consultation meeting.

[Reporter] "Is there a chance that the OAS mission will meet with members of the government as well as with opposition members? What will be included on the agenda?

[Baena Soares] "The delegation will certainly meet with the authorities and the country's political leaders. We will first meet with the minister in charge of the Presidency, Dr Solis Palma.

[Reporter] "You will hold other meetings later?

[Baena Soares] "Yes, that is our plan, and we will discuss this at our preparatory meeting.

[Reporter] "What is your opinion of the political situation in our country?

[Baena Soares] "This is neither the time nor place for me to express an opinion on Panama or any other member of the OAS. However, I do want to tell all those in Latin America and the Caribbean that we are experiencing a very important period in our history. In addition to the political situation, we must also consider our countries' economic situation. Therefore, within the constraints of the OAS Charter, I must act accordingly and cooperate with OAS members so we may attain the objectives of the OAS Charter."

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez arrived a few hours later on an Ecuadoran Air Force plane. Regarding his mission to Panama, the Ecuadoran foreign minister said:

[Cordovez] "We have arrived here with a Latin American spirit of friendship with the Panamanian people. I believe several incorrect statements have been made. We are neither mediators, judges, or jurors. We simply want to promote formulas for understanding and conciliation. We have no authority [to do otherwise]. I represent a government—a very serious and responsible government—that respects the principles of international law, especially the principle of nonintervention. Therefore, how could I take part in a delegation that does not fully comply with that principle?

[Reporter] "Mr Foreign Minister, there have been some comments regarding the OAS delegation's visit to Panama. In the specific case of Ecuador, we would like to know the scope of your mandate.

[Cordovez] "What we want to promote.... [changes thought] Panamanians must solve their problems themselves. Panamanians must find the solution. We, however, are friends of the Panamanians. There are occasions when there are friends who do not understand each

other, who have trouble communicating. Then a friend enters the scene to promote an understanding; but, as I just mentioned, fully respecting all principles regarding inter-American coexistence.

[Reporter] "Finally, Mr Foreign Minister, there are some opposition groups saying the OAS delegation is interested, or has among its objectives, to verify the vote tally sheets. Do you know anything about this?

[Cordovez] "Well, unfortunately, sometimes really absurd comments are made about a delegation such as this one. I prefer to abstain from commenting on this because this would mean giving some credibility to such comments. All we want, as I have said, is to help Panamanians who are facing a difficult time, as all Latin American countries have faced. I must add that sometimes, in our history, there have been situations in which it would have been useful to have friends to help us. Therefore, things should be taken as they are and as stated in the resolution."

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Palencia arrived at approximately 1330. In brief statements to Televisora Nacional, he stated his position as an OAS delegate.

[Palencia] "Basically, it is to search for formulas for understanding so a national agreement can be reached to solve the Panamanian people's problems.

[Reporter] "Do you think there is a chance of building bridges between the various sectors to find a solution for the Panamanian people?

[Palencia] "Well, that is our mission here; to try to reach a national agreement. We will simply present the proposals for understanding, but it will be the Panamanian people who will chose their destiny.

[Reporter] "What is your opinion regarding the concept of interventionism?

[Palencia] "We are fully respectful of the principle of nonintervention. This should... [changes thought] I want to state this very clearly, this is not why the OAS sent a delegation. We have come here with other objectives, clearly established in the resolution, such as finding and proposing urgent formulas for understanding.

[Reporter] "What can the Panamanian people expect from the Guatemalan representative to the OAS?

[Palencia] "I have come with much enthusiasm, optimism, and with my country's best wishes so that in the near future Panamanian people can enjoy peace and harmony."

Panamanian Foreign Minister Ritter stated that the purpose of the OAS delegation is to promote a dialogue among Panamanians, create links between groups, and open up paths for understanding.

[Ritter] "The OAS decided to appoint this commission to try to bring about a reconciliation, which means to bring into agreement those who disagree, not to bring formulas, not to impose solutions or pre-established criteria. There have already been many interpretations of the OAS delegation's mission. The only thing that must clearly be established is that the terms of reference are contained in the resolution itself.

I want to take this opportunity to note that when the resolution talks about trying to reconcile Panamanians to find democratic formulas that will ensure national sovereignty, this means that it is necessary to find new formulas. On the day the OAS voted—that is, the day this resolution was passed—one of the foreign ministers wanted the resolution amended so it would clearly state that this was the sovereign will expressed in the past elections. Various foreign ministers reiterated that this was not the purpose of the OAS meeting nor could the OAS make such a statement. What is done is done, and the Panamanians' decision was the Panamanians' decision. The idea was to find new formulas. Within this context, I must welcome the foreign ministers. The first one to arrive was the Trinidadian and Tobagan foreign minister. They are very welcome in our country to try to promote reconciliation among Panamanians, to try to help us Panamanians reach an agreement. If they could help us I believe they will be rendering a great service to the country and to Panamanian democracy."

Solis Palma Meets Delegation

PA2405033689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0229 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] During the first formal meeting of the OAS delegation that is visiting our country, Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez said: We are going to try to promote an agreement and we will not impose anything, because the situation we are viewing must have a Panamanian solution, implemented by Panamanians. Therefore, this will have to be our main guideline. The OAS delegation came to Panama in accordance with a resolution issued by the 21st consultative meeting of OAS foreign ministers.

In this manner, the Ecuadoran foreign minister replied to the welcoming statement by Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, who told the delegation members that anything they need to accomplish their duty to achieve peace in the region was at their disposal. Solis Palma added that the delegation members should not hesitate to ask for anything they feel is necessary to carry out their task.

Cordovez emphasized that the delegation had come to Panama on a friendly mission, and that all Panamanians should understand it in this manner. Our governments would be disappointed if we did not fully comply with the mission that has been entrusted to us, he added.

At the request of the OAS delegation, the president of the Republic gave a detailed explanation of the Panamanian situation before, during, and after the elections, including the circumstances that led to the annulment of the elections by the Electoral Tribunal. In his statement, Solis Palma charged that due to the crisis prevailing in the country, which was caused by the United States, it is evident that the proper conditions to hold elections were not present. Canal funds were being withheld, U.S. companies were withholding funds—at Washington's orders—and there was local and foreign disinformation as a result of a system that the United States had set up.

Cabinet Communique on Mission

PA2305182189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 May 89 p 10

[Communique issued by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, and all members of his cabinet in Panama City on 22 May]

[Text] The Republic of Panama has been invariably respectful of international law, peace-loving, a proponent of harmonious cooperation among peoples and states, and a zealous defender of self-determination and national sovereignty.

Panama's history has shown that the tasks of the democr ,tic organization of its society and of its development within the framework of national independence are made more difficult and face almost insurmountable obstacles when—under the pretext of pursuing its vital interests on our territory—the United States has decided to apply a policy of domination, subjection, and intervention to the detriment of Panama's territorial integrity and political independence.

In the past 3 years, the United States has had no scruples about resorting to destabilizing activities and numerous coercive and interventionist measures against the Republic of Panama. These have caused serious and irreparable damage to Panama's economy and society. Not even the existence of international commitments solemnly agreed upon with our country have restrained the United States in its efforts to destroy our national sovereignty.

Overt and covert aggression; pressure; the threat to use force against our state and its leaders; coercive military, monetary, financial, economic, commercial, political, diplomatic and other measures including an embargo, improper appropriation, and a blockade, which retard our development; open interference in our internal affairs; and obstruction of our foreign policy, including the harassment of and violence against our consular and diplomatic personnel, are part of a plan to destabilize the Panamanian state. These criminal actions by the U.S. Government are a complement to psychological warfare operations that manipulate people and that spread disinformation worldwide to discredit, ruin, and undermine our country and to create scenarios conducive to even more serious intervention in Panama and Latin America.

There has been obvious intervention by U.S. Government officials in Panama's internal political affairs. These officials organized civil disobedience actions, participated in meetings and demonstrations, organized and trained opposition forces, and supplied large sums of money to distort the election results. Statements opposing the Panamanian Government were made by U.S. officials at the highest levels, including the secretary of state and the President.

We have not hesitated to tell the entire world that these U.S. Government actions obviously and indisputably are human rights violations and that such conduct falls within a policy of state terrorism on the part of a power that, ironically, calls itself the champion of democracy and freedom.

This entire strategy has a single purpose: To make our national independence impossible and to keep our people from developing and progressing in a manner that is autonomous, dignified, and compatible with their own characteristics, thereby eliminating vestiges of colonialism and neocolonialism in order to progress toward a more appropriate way of life.

The U.S. Government wants to evade its obligations to Panama under the 1977 Canal Treaties, which call for the transfer of the waterway to Panama and the removal of U.S. military forces fron Panamanian territory no later than 31 December 1999.

Following this policy, the United States decided not to recognize Panama's constitutional government and continues to try to isolate that government by attempting to cast doubt on its legitimacy. The United States is committing a premeditated violation of the Canal Treaties, related agreements, and bilateral and multilateral conventions. It does so with absolute disdain for the UN and OAS Charters and with utter rejection of the principles of international law governing the relations of friendship and cooperation among states.

Seeing that its strategy against Panama is not yielding the expected results, the United States is now attempting to isolate Panama and to establish a ring of pressure around our people in order to deepen and internationalize its plans to destabilize and overthrow our constitutional government, without precluding the elimination of our leaders.

The Republic of Panama hoped that the OAS would act with a spirit of justice, equanimity, and impartiality and would examine the events that have taken place primarily over the last 18 months as a result of the criminal

U.S. actions against our people. These actions are the main cause of the political crisis faced by the Panamanian nation and should have been given priority attention at the OAS meeting.

Instead of exploring in an overall manner and with a spirit of justice the international nature of the conflict between Panama and the United States, the OAS meeting adopted a resolution that addressed only certain isolated aspects of the 7 May 1989 elections, failing to analyze and evaluate other important facts and circumstances related to the elections that have international repercussions.

The Panamanian Government believes the resolution approved on 17 May 1989 during the 21st OAS foreign ministers meeting contains criteria, assertions, charges, and proposals that are not provided for in the OAS Charter and that are unacceptable offenses to the nation's dignity, such as the ill-intentioned mention of the commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces. Despite this, and since the essence of the resolution calls for a simple gesture to promote agreement among Panamanians, the Panamanian delegation chose not to prevent a consensus in promoting this commendable purpose.

The Republic of Panama, in reaffirming its adherence to the purposes and principles of the OAS and its willingness to consider all proposed ways of agreement with the best goodwill and the greatest diligence, understands that the OAS Charter does not authorize or empower the organization to become an international tribunal of justice, an international vote-counting board, or an international court of appeals. The OAS certainly cannot carry out functions that are exclusively the concern of a local court, vote-counting board, or electoral tribunal. Moreover, the OAS cannot, for whatever reason, intervene in matters that affect Panama's national sovereignty or contradict, invalidate, or disregard the decisions of Panama's courts.

Our government welcomes any initiative that, within the strict purview of the OAS and with due adherence to the UN Charter and international law, can establish the true nature of the crisis as a conflict between Panama and the United States. The Republic of Panama, however, will never accept any action that is considered interference in its national sovereignty.
Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency
Rodolfo Chiari de Leon, minister of government and justice
Jorge Eduardo Ritter, minister of foreign relations
Orville K. Goodin, minister of finance and treasury
Rolando Murgas Torrazza, minister of education
Rene Bultron, minister of public works
Luis Olmedo Castillo, acting minister of agricultural development
Isaac Hanono, minister of commerce and industries
Cesar A. Martans V., minister of labor and social welfare
Francisco Sanchez C., minister of health
Ricardo Bermudez, minister of housing
Gustavo Gonzalez, minister of planning and economic policy
Nander A. Pitty Velasquez, minister of the Presidency

Comments Criticize Resolution

PA2305193389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 23 May 89

["Liberation Trails" program with journalist Baltazar Aizpurua and Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Rigoberto Paredes]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Aizpurua] Rigoberto, the mention of General Manuel Antonio Noriega in the OAS resolution is not the only interference in our affairs. I have a copy of the approved resolution here. People must know about this. Another form of interference is the resolution's thesis that the incidents in Panama—which the resolution claims were provoked by Noriega's abuses—have curtailed the Panamanian people's right to freely elect their legitimate authorities. The resolution also states that the abuse of opposition candidates and of Panamanian citizens violates human, civil, and political rights. However, the foreign ministers forgot who provoked these incidents. They forgot that they were provoked by the bodyguards of opposition candidates Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford. These bodyguards used guns against the people and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

[Paredes] They are bodyguards supplied by the U.S. Embassy.

[Aizpurua] That is correct. They are bodyguards of a private company hired by the United States. The Americans provided the opposition candidates with these bodyguards, and it was these bodyguards who provoked the incident. This is why FDP troops were wounded. Two noncommissioned officers, two soldiers, and some Dignity Battalion members were wounded.

Everyone saw how Guillermo Ford—or Billy Ford as he likes to go by—was shown on U.S. television stations. These stations showed Ford covered with blood, but the blood was not his. It was the blood of the bodyguard who had been shooting at people. This is what happened there, but an effort was made to distort the facts. The OAS resolution is a result of this effort. This is unacceptable.

[Paredes] You are absolutely right. One must also add that these bodyguards were carrying weapons despite a ban on the use of weapons during and after the elections.

Furthermore, by holding that demonstration and being in the streets, opposition members were also defying the authorities, which had banned demonstrations. They held the demonstration anyway. To this I must say: Any action involves a risk. They went ahead and held their demonstration based on the fact that they had been candidates. But they were no longer candidates for anything, and yet they defied the authorities' decision as

if we lived in anarchy. The OAS has not taken this into consideration either, and you are absolutely right in that regard. It is important to note this. This is the argument—regardless of how groundless it is—that most OAS members used to attack Panama and to interfere in Panama's affairs.

However, I will go beyond what you said. The bodyguards who carried large-caliber weapons—despite the ban—were not the only ones responsible for the incident. They are mere instruments. The United States is solely responsible for what happened and for everything that has happened for the last 3 years. First, we had to put up with Ronald Reagan's stubborness and his insistence to mercilessly impose his will on this country. Then came George Bush, who has followed Reagan's steps either because of an inability to oppose Reagan's policy—which brought him to power—or because he has the desire or interest to carry out and complete—because he believes in it—the work against Panama that Reagan started.

U.S. officials are working against Panama simply because they do not like the fact that the Torrijos-Carter Treaties were signed. They want to keep the U.S. bases in Panama. U.S. officials want to keep the bases but without having to pay for them. The United States pays millions of dollars to Spain and the Philippines to keep its bases there. Panama is the only place in the world where the United States keeps its bases for free. This is why the United States has been creating all these problems.

Why attack Noriega? Because he was the leader who confronted the United States. During Torrijos' time, we also had to ask: Why Torrijos? Because Torrijos was the leader who was fighting for Panama's liberation and rights. According to increasingly specific information, Torrijos was most probably killed by the United States, just like the United States has killed other world leaders. These are assassinations the U.S. Government has admitted in statements to the U.S. Congress.

Consequently, you are right when you said the OAS did not mention those truly responsible for the incidents. Good judgment and honesty did not prevail in the OAS resolution. The desire of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, and others to harm Panama and to create problems for Gen Noriega was what prevailed in that resolution. They did this for reasons we already know, particularly their desire and need to please the United States to solve their economic problems. This is what it is all about.

Some people are so insignificant that they believe they have to tarnish other people's images in order to stand out. This problem is also a problem of Latin American and Third World leadership. Perez, a failure as a president, and Arias, the hypocrite of Central America, are jealous men who are aware of Noriega's nationalistic leadership in Latin America. Politicians sometimes see their own reputations go down the drain. Meanwhile, the people want liberation. People throughout Latin America are challenging the establishment. There is an establishment in the United States, but there is also an establishment in each of the Latin American nations. The people are fighting and confronting these establishments. Because of this, Arias and Perez are trying to get rid Noriega. Perhaps they are saying: We will get rid of Noriega, and, at the same time, we will please Uncle Sam, who will dig in his pocket to solve our economic problems. By solving our economic problems, they think, we will solve our political problems. This is what Perez believes, and this is what is leading him to the end of his political career. Carlos Andres Perez' conscience will have to live with what he did to the more than 1,000 people who were killed in the recent riots. He traded $1 million for each dead person. He will have to live with that for the rest of his life.

[Aizpurua] [Passage omitted] We have a position on the OAS resolution. Our position coincides with the government's. It is the position of those who support national liberation. The servile opposition's stand is the following: They say the OAS has understood the urgent need to solve the grave crisis caused by the regime. In this way, they absolve the United States from any interference. To them, the United States is not to blame for the crisis affecting this country. This clearly shows the subservient nature of the Panamanian opposition, which is controlled by the treacherous oligarchy.

The opposition has said that when the foreign ministers' delegation visits Panama today, the Panamanian people will again express their sovereign will to live in a democracy. This is a call to provoke incidents. The opposition continues to follow the path of sedition. This should end.

[Paredes] The opposition wants to cause disturbances to provoke an armed intervention, which is what these bad Panamanians have been hoping for.

[Aizpurua] Approximately 1 year ago, Legislator Paredes introduced a bill defining treason as a crime. However, this bill was not approved. I want to publicly tell you, Rigoberto, that I supported that initiative. I think this bill must be updated and passed, because we cannot continue to allow treason to be praised in this country. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Post-Election Reactions

Cubans Interview Noriega

FL2405010689 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 May 89

["Segment" of interview granted by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, to Cuban journalists at the Palace of the Herons; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Noriega] The United States is closing off all the civilized roads in its frantic blindness, in its inconceivable arrogance because here in Panama—we've said this

before—the last battle of the free peoples of America is being fought. Imperialism is facing its final battle here. If Panama falls, then tomorrow all the other peoples seeking liberation will fall.

[Journalist Nelson Notario Castro] General, what about the economic aggression?

[Noriega] It is immeasurable.

[First unidentified journalist] How do you feel about your Armed Forces?

[Noriega] My feeling is that they are an armed forces that are truly aware, an armed forces that keep their eyes on the horizon, on the mission, and when one is convinced about his mission, nothing can make him back away, nothing will frighten him.

[Second unidentified journalist] Rumors are circulating that there are plans to assassinate you. Do you think that if Noriega disappears, Panama will also disappear?

[Noriega] It is inconceivable that the Panamanian cause will end. Torrijos ceased to exist and the Panamanian cause continues. President Remon Canteras, of 1955, ceased to exist and the Panamanian cause continued. The jurisprudents that denounced the treaties as being [word indistinct] and the Panamanian cause continues. The Panamanian cause is the cause of a people, not the cause of a man.

[Third unidentified journalist] It is important, General, do you have a message for Latin America?

[Noriega] Of course, yes, I want to call on the conscience of the free peoples of America. We call upon the conscience of those people to recall that today it is Panama, but Panama has stood up and avoided those countries' aggressions against other brother countries. The reason why we are suffering through this is precisely because Panama stood up to the empire and did not become the pliable and easy instrument of its Armed Forces to contribute to invasions and aggressions against other countries. However, the peoples simply have a great vision and once again—and I repeat—now, now [repeats himself] is the time of the free peoples of America. That is the conscience that we are touching so that we can all shout out. They can kill one man. They can kill 100 men. They can kill 1000 men but they will never kill the conscience of a free people.

Opposition Cancels Rally

PA2305140389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0528 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 22 May (AFP)—The opposition to General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime today canceled an antigovernment march scheduled for Wednesday, a spokesman for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) said today.

The ADOC leader said: "We fear provocations that could lead to violence." ADOC claimed victory in the 7 May elections, which were later annulled.

The opposition had planned to hold a 10-km march along Panama City's main streets, ending up at the local OAS office. The government, however, has banned all public demonstrations until the special OAS commission, which is expected to arrive on Tuesday, presents its report on the Panamanian situation. [passage omitted]

Endara on Provisional Junta

PA2305194289 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1856 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] We believe the people's voice is God's voice, said Guillermo Endara, Panamanian president-elect by popular vote, concerning a proposal by the Noriega regime to create a provisional government junta.

[Begin Endara recording] The winning presidential candidates believe the people's voice is God's voice. As Arnulfo Arias Madrid used to say: Vox populi, vox dei.

We will be loyal to the people. We will never betray the people, who expressed their will on 7 May by entrusting to us the future of our country—the Republic of Panama—our beloved homeland. We will not betray that mandate, which is divine to us.

The Panamanian people want us to take care of their problems and bring them progress and well-being. We have... [changes thought] That is not a mandate to exert power; it is a mandate to serve the people, and we must abide by it. Therefore, we would never agree to take part in a junta [words indistinct] we would never violate the mandate we received from the Panamanian people. [end recording]

Noriega Asks Japan To Help

OW2405032189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0246 GMT 24 May 89

[Text] Panama City, May 23 KYODO—Panama's military leader Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega called Tuesday for Japanese cooperation to help solve the current crisis in his country after the annulment of the May 7 election.

Noriega made the statement in an meeting with reporters from four Japanese news organizations in his first face-to-face interview since the election which he nullified to prevent an apparent opposition victory.

He said Japan can actively take part in efforts to solve the Panamanian problem, but he did not elaborate.

Noriega said the current crisis was touched off by U.S. efforts to keep its military forces in the country even after the scheduled return of the Panama Canal to Panama in 1999.

The United States has launched a diplomatic, psychological, and economic attack on Panama for that purpose, he said.

The general said the United States wants to turn Panama into a country easily dealt with so that it can sign a treaty to maintain U.S. troops in Panama.

The United States is also manipulating information by using its mass media to hurt the image of Panamanian leaders, Noriega said.

Asked about the possibility of a U.S. military intervention in Panama, Noriega said the U.S. has already intervened by obstructing the passage of fishermen near U.S. military facilities.

He also said that about 10 children have been killed in a bomb explosion at a U.S. military site.

The United States indicted Noriega on drug trafficking charges in February 1988. He denied the charges and said they were leveled against him as part of a U.S. plot to renege on its commitment to hand over the Panama Canal at the end of 1999.

Ford: No Opposition Negotiation

PA2405031789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1356 GMT 23 May 89

[Statement by Guillermo Ford, second vice presidential candidate for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC]; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] There must be an effective transfer of power in Panama. We are not talking about a method by which [opposition presidential candidate] Mr Endara will become one more of the [word indistinct] 98 presidents we have had in the last 20 years. Power must be transferred to the new Panamanian president. It must be clearly understood that for such a thing to occur power must leave the barracks.

That point will be included in the proposal we will present. In our opinion, there must be a concerted effort. We made that proposal before the elections. We presented that proposal respectfully and with dignity and decency.

Manuel Antonio Noriega, his group [word indistinct], and representatives of the Panama Defense Forces must attend those negotiations with us.

In addition, those negotiations must clearly deal with the withdrawal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega. That is [words indistinct] because the 7 May elections were not normal elections; they were more like a plebiscite in which people voted for democracy and against a worn-out regime.

We have told the world from the beginning about our struggle to create an awareness of what was really happening in Panama. After the elections, and with the strong support of the European and Latin American countries, Japan, China, and the United States, there was no doubt about what the Panamanian problem is. We are now working on the solution to that problem, which is obviously not an easy one, but [words indistinct].

In addition, we are trying to restore people's trust. We will not deceive ourselves. It is very difficult to be a responsible political leader. We do not want to lead people to a massacre and give those gentlemen the opportunity to enjoy themselves by killing and beating people, as we have repeatedly said. On the other hand, we must also remove the fear that people have.

We began visiting several areas of Panama on Friday and Saturday. This morning we visited many places. We visited between 8 and 10 places. We visited several workplaces so people can see us without endangering their lives. The risk we run does not matter. We are not making these visits because we think we are really macho. We are simply trying to transmit our spirit of struggle to the people [words indistinct].

There is something that everyone here is aware of: the government's financial problems. There are a series of things that are suffocating the dictatorship. The government does not have enough money to meet its payroll.

A NEWSWEEK correspondent confirmed this morning that the government received $50 million from Libya. NEWSWEEK will publish an article with that information in their next issue, which will come out torromow or the day after. That is a confirmed report. The government will use that money to meet its payroll. They also obtained a $100-million oil credit.

[Words indistinct] the Panamanian problem stops being a problem if Mr Endara becomes the president-elect, the question is that the Panamanian problem must be solved at its roots; we are very aware of that.

Within the limitations we may face, we are deeply determined not to disappoint the people who clearly granted us this mandate. We do not wish to attain power as a result of negotiations. We want to attain power through the need that exists to recognize the people's will.

I am sure that neither Mr Endara, Mr Arias Calderon [opposition first vice presidential candidate], nor myself are interested in being inaugurated due to an arrangement.

I can give you an example of what I am saying. We will not agree to the formation of a government junta, an election for a constituent assembly, or any of those tricks they use to disguise their sneaky actions. Sneaky actions are sneaky actions, and they must be brought into the open once and for all.

Second [numbering as heard], we will demand the recognition of the victory of the candidates who ran for legislator and corregimiento representative. We can prove their victory with the vote tally sheets we have. We will not say: Okay, let the president and vice presidents attain power and let us negotiate the Legislative Assembly seats. You must not have any doubt about what we will do. The legislative posts are not at stake. In the very few districts in which we lack evidence to support the winners' triumph, we are willing to [words indistinct] election, but let us not do the opposite, which would be to hold new elections in all districts, because we do have vote tally sheets.

Assembly Rejects U.S. 'Meddling'

PA2405131589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Panamanian Legislative Assembly's board of directors and its majority this afternoon issued an appeal to the citizens asking them to reject intimidation and to continue the struggle against intervention, which undermines our right to be a free and sovereign nation.

The declaration is signed by 36 legislators and expresses their repudiation of foreign interference, the overt and covert U.S. meddling in our internal policy, and the attempts by U.S. allies abroad and in Panama to create a climate that would justify an armed intervention in Panama.

The declaration is signed by Legislative Assembly President Celso Carrizo, Vice Presidents Florencio Asprilla and Sotero Alfonso Govea, Secretary General Erasmo Pinilla, and 33 legislators.

U.S. 'Double Standards' Decried

PA2305154289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 89

["Station News Director's Compass" commentary: "U.S. President Bush's Double Standards"]

[Text] While the U.S. Government headed by President Bush sends thousands of Marines and military hardware worth billions of dollars to Panama, approximately 40,000 children die of malnutrition every day because of the diversion of funds and resources from the needy to the vaults of U.S. banks.

That unfair practice is based on the double standards of the Bush administration, which on the one hand appears to be a champion of world democracy and on the other shows disrespect for the principle of self-determination.

The U.S. Administration is determined to attack any nations that reject U.S. colonialism. The threat of a military aggression against Panama is part of the strategy followed by the U.S. establishment, which wants to focus attention on an international crusade to distract the U.S. people's attention from the scandalous activities carried out by President Bush. Bush is accused of involvement in the arms sales to Iran and in clandestine operations in Central America from which he made substantial profits.

Bush and his closest associates practice a double standard that should disqualify them from condemning Panama before an organization such as the OAS. Independent voices are beginning to speak out at the OAS to defend the sovereignty of the Latin American peoples, who share common roots and the same hopes for progress.

The U.S. Government and its warmongering policy have caused deep economic disparities in the region and have disturbed peaceful relations among the region's states. The U.S. Government has increased our region's poverty and has used our peoples' resources to finance military plans aimed at intimidating other countries.

But Bush was wrong. Just as his White House predecessor, he misjudged the Panamanian people's ability to struggle and make sacrifices. The Panamanian people have not been intimidated by threats of intervention or by the presence of warships and fighter planes in the foreign military bases along the Panama Canal. Neither cannons nor international plots are enough to bring about the surrender of a nation filled with courage. That nation will never accept the presence of foreign forces on its territory.

The Panamanian people are smart enough to realize that behind the U.S. campaign of slanders and threats lies a plan for intervention. This plan is completely different from the professed democratic aims of the U.S. President, who wants to turn Panamanians into scapegoats for the failure of Washington's diplomacy in Latin America and into a warning for the region's countries.

President Bush's double standard is beginning to crumble both inside his government and before an increasingly sceptical U.S. public opinion. It is hard to convince the U.S. people to support an armed intervention in Panama, because U.S. honor or security are not at stake here.

The aggression against Panama is immoral. It is above all a challenge against the peoples' sovereign right to choose their destinies. That is the opinion both of the world's progressive forces and of many Vietnam veterans, who 2 years ago marched to the U.S. Capitol and threw away their war medals to show their opposition to U.S. policy toward Central America. Bush intends to continue that same policy by using other people's blood.

PDC on Military Cooperation

PA2305190389 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Panamanian Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has proposed cooperation between civilians and the military.

According to Panamanian PDC Vice President Guillermo Cochez, cooperation between civilians and military is necessary to lead that country to democracy.

Cochez said that two factors cannot be postponed: first, the departure of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]; and second, a change in the hegemonic role played by the FDP in the state's affairs.

Cochez added that by respecting the results of the 7 May elections Panamanians could begin the process of national reconstruction on 1 September, which is the inauguration date for the new government.

Cochez will arrive in Panama tomorrow with the OAS delegation that has been assigned to report on the Panamanian situation.

Solis Palma on Public Administration Needs

PA2305191489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Upon resuming talks with mid-level health officials today, Manuel Solis Palma, Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency, called on them to eliminate corruption in government.

During the meeting at the Atlapa Convention Center, Solis said public administration should be reorganized, the available resources in each administrative area balanced, the administration's current disorder corrected, and the government improved as much as possible. He admitted, however, that perfection is not possible.

He said public administration should receive priority attention. In addition, he said it is necessary to assess both the reorganization and priority assessment stages. Solis said that reorganization does not entail laying off public employees and that this idea has never entered his mind. On this issue, he said two things can be done: Place employees according to their abilities and experience, or train them and reach a balance among the objectives, goals, and actions of each administrative area in terms of personnel and human, physical, and financial resources, as well as space, communications, and integration of the state's various activities.

Solis said there is a disagreement among ministries as to actions, goals, and objectives. The number of personnel in some ministries is too high in relation to what they do, while there are not enough people in other institutions.

Later, Solis asked the government officials to contribute new ideas and initiatives so a national plan to move the country forward can be implemented.

Radiocommunication Businesses Investigated

PA2305220489 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 May 89 pp 19, 20

[Communique issued by the Government and Justice Ministry's National Media Directorate on 22 May in Panama City]

[Text]Republic of Panama
Government and Justice Ministry
22 May 1989
Communique:

The Government and Justice Ministry's National Media Directorate has confirmed in recent investigations that certain businesses [whose right to provide] radiocommunication services is renewed every year in accordance with Decree 155 of 28 May 1962 are using these services for malicious purposes.

This directorate has discovered that many of these companies are using assumed names to cover up for people who are committing offenses against state security.

This dishonest and unpatriotic behavior forces this directorate to implement a number of measures to guarantee the proper use of these services and the well-being of those who comply with the law.

Thus, we will begin a general and exhaustive review of all systems operating in the nation to determine their present status, and establish proper controls to keep unauthorized people from hurting the private lives of people and national security.

In addition, at the proper time, we will call on all users of these systems to an important meeting to discuss the situation and to make a decision regarding this matter.
Luis Romero Villalobos
National Media Director

TV Station Suspends Commentary Segment

PA2305184989 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 May 89 p 5

[From the "Scoops" column]

[Text] The program, "Today in the World", broadcast by TV 2 [Televisora Nacional] has been temporarily suspended as of yesterday. This program features journalist Luis Manuel Martinez' dynamic and in-depth commentaries. To quote another colleague, a controversial voice is now in waiting.

Argentina

Alfonsin Speaks on Political, Economic Crisis

PY2305223289 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 23 May 89

[Speech by President Raul Alfonsin from Government House, date not given—recorded]

[Text] Good afternoon. I believe it is absolutely necessary to discuss with you the political developments of the past few days.

For some time now I have been convinced that the behavior of the economy is strongly influenced by political problems that generated economic developments which, in turn, threatened Argentina's stability, caused the inflation rate to rise, and above all, affected the living standards of those sectors with a fixed income.

For some months now it has been quite clear that the prevailing uncertainty was characteristic of an electoral campaign. It is quite clear now that, after exemplary elections during which the people decisively and clearly expressed their will, the necessary provisional nature of the measures that our government takes in the economic field—or any other field for that matter—generates uncertainty regarding their continuity. This uncertainty affects the economic field and prompts each and every one of us to behave according to the nature of the problem we are experiencing.

I had a great dream, which you all know about because I have mentioned it many times: I hoped to fulfill my 6-year term in office. But in view of the very clear results of the elections and the persistent uncertainty created by the economic developments that have led to the situation I have already mentioned, I wondered whether I was just being selfish since my mission had already been fulfilled. We held elections, we elected a candidate, we practically consolidated democracy through the transference of power. However, we were faced with this problem mainly because our Constitution is too old, which is a more than good enough reason to amend it, and also because this is the first time something like this has happened in our country. Never before, since elections have been held, has one president elected by the people handed power over to another president elected by the people. Thus, all this continued to generate problems and I reached the conclusion that I had to offer an early inauguration to the new Argentine president. This was, of course, painful, but I thought it was a sacrifice I had to make for the sake of democracy itself, and ultimately for the fatherland, and for the sake of overcoming a crisis which, under the current circumstances, cannot be managed with provisional measures.

My offer was not accepted. I am not supposed to analyze or pass judgment on why the offer was not accepted. The truth is that, as I said earlier, we are determined to govern without hesitation until 10 December this year. No one, however, should come to us later and tell us that it would have been useful to have had an early inauguration.

We are going to draw up a 6-month program and we will carry it out with great responsibility as we have done during these past 5 and ½ years.

But there is something else I want you to bear in mind: The uncertainty caused by this economic situation led us to the conclusion that, during the transition, at least the two majority parties should try to reach an accord for joint action. We would obviously assume the responsibility, because the responsibility is ours. Yet it should also be understood that the solution involves everyone, that all of us are affected by this situation, and that all of us have the obligation to do our best to overcome the economic situation.

In this regard, the president-elect—we can call him this despite the fact that the electoral college has not yet made a formal decision—as I was saying, the president-elect was courteous enough to designate a trusted person to begin the talks.

The talks were held with the participation of technical groups. On Saturday and Sunday we waited for results. Conclusions were arrived at and we were ready to modify our own project, accepting criteria to bring consistency to the action by both political forces, which I consider absolutely essential to bring tranquillity to the economy.

Excellent officials who were working with us in the economic sector resigned and we deplore their resignation. We decreed a 2-day bank and exchange market holiday.

However, after we reached what seemed to be a final accord, there were comments saying that there was no such accord and that no accord was possible because utility rates and taxes were increased, and that the point was to increase salaries and to give more funds to the provinces.

I cannot understand how either of these objectives can be accomplished without increasing utility rates, which will obviously have social significance—because of inflation—and without creating the new taxes that will make the upper class shoulder the burden of solving or alleviating the problems of the lower classes.

That is how things now stand. I know that no one wants to obstruct or to cause harm. We will obviously continue to try to engage in a dialogue with the sector that today is the majority in Argentina.

In the meantime, however, we cannot continue with what we had assumed; that is, with this project, which had meaning and significance, within the framework of an accord between the two political sectors.

It will be necessary to take many more steps. This is why I want to announce that a money exchange holiday will continue to be observed tomorrow and Friday [Thursday, 25 May, is Argentine independence day, a holiday]. We will implement not only a war economy, but we will have a crisis government and we will go through this transition with all our strength, trying to prevent the have-nots from shouldering the burden of this process. We will implement a social-oriented policy. As anyone could imagine, this policy will be hard.

On the other hand, I would like to say that corruption has been mentioned in the middle of this virtual orgy of slanders—which has been caused mainly by the fact that the existing regulations do not guarantee the appropriate defense of personal honor. I would like to say that whoever has evidence should resort to the courts and we will back him. Whoever does not have evidence should resort to the office of the investigating prosecutor, because we will lend our support to punish scoundrels.

Yet whoever uses any media to press vague charges of corruption—without levelling specific charges before the courts or before the office of the prosecutor in order to arrest the scoundrel—then he is a scoundrel himself.

Therefore, I want to make it very clear that democracy must be defended, avoiding accusations that permanently tarnish the system, not just any one government or political party.

This is a decent government that is willing to approve of any type of investigation of any of its officials.

In this case the defense of democracy is in the hands of everyone. If we were dishonest everyone would have the obligation to make the corresponding accusations.

Finally, I also wish to stress, Argentines do not have to be told this because they already know it well, that I will be the one who will struggle the most for Argentine democracy.

The president-elect will not be able to find a more decisive aide in opening the path for his assumption, and neither will he find a more decided aide for the defense of democracy than the current president.

I believe that we all need each other. We must respect each other. We all must work for great things. We all must think about the country. We must not seek to destroy; that only adds obstacles to this very difficult Argentine situation.

We are going to call on everyone. We are going to call on the unions and organized labor. We are going to call on the business sector.

We are going to govern in a different manner, in a manner that I do not like. We will be very demanding. We will be using the media quite a lot. I personally will try to get everyone to comply with this basic responsibility of not using speculation to attack the Argentine people.

You know very well that I have not used television to favor my party or as a propaganda channel for my government, but, yes, we will now use it to the full [preceding word in English] to defend Argentine democracy and the economy of our people.

In the coming days, we will be using television to inform you of what we are doing. And, it is quite certain that on 27 May we will be in a condition to inform you about the project that we will implement.

Until that time, I ask you for calm and tranquillity. We are looking for the best solutions, convinced that Argentine democracy is obligated to give answers to the most urgent problems of the poorer Argentine society, convinced that we must make a basic effort to get out of this serious difficulty that we are experiencing.

I would like to thank you for the effort to be made. I also thank you for your calmness.

Until very soon, thank you very much.

Menem on Alfonsin, Transfer of Power

PY2305204989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1604 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 May (TELAM)—President-elect Carlos Menem today stated: "I do not want President Alfonsin to resign. I do not agree with it. I hope he finishes his term, whether shortened or not, with honors. He was elected by the people and I do not see why he should resign."

He added: "We must pave the way for him to end his presidential term. He realy deserves it. He must not end it by resigning, but on a legal footing that will allow him to shorten this term, so that Dr Alfonsin will no longer work in the public but will be able to return to a private life and work in politics with full honors."

Menem made this statement on leaving a private hospital in Belgrano neighborhood, where one of his brothers is hospitalized.

Asked about the legal proposals for an early transfer of power, Menem answered: "There are several proposals: to shorten the term based on a presidential succession process or to shorten the presidential term based on resignation proposals, with which I do not agree. I do not want President Alfonsin to resign," he said.

He was asked whether he still maintains his position of assuming office in September or October as he said last night. He answered: "I do not know. I cannot set dates, because every time we set a tentative date, it is taken as a definite thing. This is why I would rather not mention exact dates."

Menem added: "The economy minister will be designated by the president, and the president is Carlos Menem, and nothing has been established yet. Barrionuevo has no authority whatsoever to mention names. Carlos Menem is the one who will make designations."

Menem made these remarks when reporters asked him about what union leader Luis Barrionuevo said this morning, to the effect that Miguel Roig was the candidate who would probably be designated.

Menem added that these remarks "only seek to create false expectations. If I have said it once, I have said it a thousand times: The president of the nation is Carlos Menem and not those who are around him." Referring to the press, he said: "Carlos Menem is the man who must designate names, not the media."

Menem then denied that yesterday he received a telephone call from President Alfonsin. "I do not know where that phone call came from. There is no truth to it."

He was then asked what is still needed to conclude an agreement with the government. Menem said: "We still need the legal aspect. We cannot just run into Government House forcibly. We either do things well or we wait until 10 December. Within a state of law we must first respect the Constitution and laws."

When asked how long this agreement will take, he said: "Maybe a few days, maybe next week. I cannot give you a precise date because the steps we must take are important, and we must measure them so no mistakes are made that will be difficult to correct later."

Regarding the government economic plan, he said: "We are preparing it. The economic situation is changing every day. The most important thing will be to adopt measures to stop this hyperinflation that is obviously prevailing."

Economic Measures 'Antipopular'

PY2405015089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 May (TELAM)—President-elect Carlos Menem described as "clearly antipopular" the measures which the government will implement in the next few hours. He said that "this is why the Justicialist Party has not endorsed these economic measures."

Menem made these remarks shortly upon leaving the house at 1900 Cochabamba Street. He said "he respects Alfonsin's defense of his government in his speech."

Commenting on the slander campaign charge, Menem said that he was also "attacked during the electoral campaign," and that "this happens to public men."

Commenting on the subject of corruption, Menem quoted former Radical Civic Union vice presidential candidate Juan Manuel Casella who, during the electoral campaign, "spoke of widespread corruption."

Spokesman Announces En Masse Cabinet Resignation

PY2305234789 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2340 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez has announced that all cabinet ministers have tendered their resignation.

Pugliese: Only Menem Can Solve Economic Crisis

PY2405023489 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 May 89 p 5

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese admitted yesterday that none of his policies would be respected unless they were backed by the Peronists and he said that the only one who could resolve the current crisis was President-elect Carlos Menem.

"No one is interested in and no ones believes in the measures this government is putting forward because everyone is waiting to see whether these policies will be accepted or not by the Peronists," Pugliese said. He then added that the president-elect "has not supported our new economic plan in any way and has rejected any talk of public utility rate and tax increases.

"The Radical administration is not inclined to work under this situation until December 10," Pugliese said. "The current atmosphere of speculation in the market can only be cured by reaching a broad based concensus and this can only be brought about by Menem."

Pugliese added that the measures the Radicals were proposing were not bad, it was just that they could not work because of uncertainty with regard to the future.

Meanwhile, various business organizations including the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) voiced their support yesterday for the ideal of allowing President-elect Carlos Menem to take power before December 10.

The UIA said that due to "the extremely serious socio-economic situation" the new president should be permitted to step up sooner than planned "as long as such a move is compatible with the spirit and the letter of the Constitution."

Government, Peronists Reach Technical Agreement
PY2305133689 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpt] This is a last minute report from the Finance Ministry:

Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese has disclosed that a technical agreement, that is subject to a political decision by President-elect Carlos Saul Menem, has been reached with the Justicialist leaders with whom he met this evening.

Pugliese disclosed that the Justicialist leaders agreed on the creation of a tax on the first export [as heard] of agricultural products, an export statistics tax [impuesto estadistico a las exportaciones], and the extension of taxes to be used as funds for the provinces. He said that they rejected the proposal to apply value added tax on all goods without exception. [passage omitted]

Jaunarena Talks to Armed Forces on Turnover
PY2305154689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1106 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 May (NA)—Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena has met with the commanders of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and the chief of the Joint Staff to explain the different alternatives being considered by the government for an early transfer of power to President-elect Carlos Menem. He also explained the difficult economic situation the country is experiencing.

According to reports of last night's meeting, the top military commanders asked the minister to act as liaison in any future contacts between the Armed Forces and the Justicialist Party. This arrangement will prevent possible disagreements and embarrassing situations at a moment of extreme sensitivity that is stemming from the different negotiations being carried out between the Justicialist Party and the Radical Civic Union [UCR], seeking not only to shorten the transition period but also to implement economic measures that will help stabilize the markets.

Rumors, now unofficially denied, have indicated that Peronist leaders have established contacts with the Armed Forces, seeking a consensus for an early transfer of the presidential powers.

According to what has been learned, the meeting began with a lecture by the defense minister, who conveyed to General Francisco Gassino, to Admiral Ramon Arosa, and to Brigadiers Ernesto Crespo and Teodoro Waldner, the results of the meeting he held with President Raul Alfonsin, during which they discussed the possibility of shortening the transition period.

On Saturday night Jaunarena held a meeting with President Alfonsin. Also present at the meeting was Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia.

Moreover, Planning Secretary Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini thoroughly explained the economic situation and the possible measures that will be adopted to stabilize the economy.

The individual situation of each Armed Forces branch was discussed separately with Admiral Arosa, who yesterday morning met with the minister and in the afternoon with Brigadier Crespo.

Another meeting with General Gassino is scheduled for today.

Defense Ministry sources consider these meetings to be regular meetings, although the one held yesterday was considered a preparatory meeting for the one scheduled for Thursday, which is a holiday.

The chiefs of staff also explained the budget difficulties the Armed Forces are experiencing with the economic crisis.

Rodriguez Giavarini has just concluded a budget reorganization study that will be included in the reform bill that is being prepared by the Economy Ministry.

Regarding the role the Armed Forces must play in an early transfer of power, military sources have reaffirmed their position to remain "uninvolved" in the government's political decisions.

They also ratified their support for the Constitution, the laws, and the state of law.

Navy Commander To Step Down With Alfonsin
PY2305161089 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1335 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 May (NA)—Navy Commander Admiral Ramon Arosa today announced his decision to resign from his post at the same time as President Raul Alfonsin leaves office. Moreover, it has been learned that Air Force Commander, Brigadier Ernesto Crespo has decided to relieve Brigadier Andres Antonietti of his duties pending another assignment for having visited President-elect Carlos Menem in La Rioja over the past weekend.

According to the report published today by some morning newspapers, Antonietti was invited by Menem to attend the celebrations marking the anniversary of the foundation of the province.

According to reports, Antonietti has a long and close friendship with the president-elect, to the point that he even piloted the plane that yesterday brought Menem from his province to the federal capital.

Reports say that Crespo became aware of Antonietti's trip and decided to pass him into the inactive status. Antonietti was a member of the Air Force staff. Other reports, however, state that Crespo asked Antonietti to retire, but he refused.

Regarding Admiral Arosa, the newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO reported today that the Navy commander has conveyed his decision to "end his administration term at the Navy when the president-elect assumes office, and to then engage in professional activities."

Thus, Arosa is the first commander of the three Armed Forces' branches to publicly announce his intention to resign from his post with the transfer of presidential powers.

Regarding his possible successor, Arosa said that "no one has asked for my opinion, and so I have not proposed any name. No one has proposed anything to me either."

Bolivia

ADN Proposes Co-Government to MIR

PY2405025289 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 17 May 89 p 1

[Text] It was learned yesterday in political circles that the Democratic Nationalist Action (ADN) Party has offered to co-govern with the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) as of August 1989.

General Hugo Banzer made this offer to Jaime Paz Zamora last week during a 4-hour meeting they held at the house of a La Paz dignitary.

The report that has been obtained by EL DIARIO journalists indicates that Gen Banzer proposed that the MIR support his presidential nomination in Congress in exchange for a co-government, with Paz Zamora assuming the post of prime minister.

The co-government would consist of ADN taking control of the political and economic areas, while the MIR would control the social area.

On the other hand, they would share the management of public enterprises and of the Development Corporations of the nine departments.

They also discussed points regarding whether the agreement would be approved by their parties and other influential sectors.

According to what has been learned, the chief of the MIR did not commit himself, but they both agreed to continue meeting to see whether they can arrive at an agreement.

Political circles have pointed out the significance of Paz Zamora's departure from the country during the past few days, at a time when the official vote count has not been released.

This fact has led to the belief that he is sounding out opinions in European political circles, with whom he has had very close relations during the past few years, about an eventual understanding with the ADN.

Other reports indicate that efforts are being made to reach an agreement through the support of the Christian Democrats and the Socialist International.

In this respect, the Christian Democrats are playing a very important role due to their links with Christian Democratic Parties in other parts of the world.

Agreements Signed With IDB for Projects

PY2305040689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] has approved the plan of financial cooperation for the implementation of reactivation studies in the fields of education and health.

This morning, government authorities and IDB representatives in Bolivia signed the respective documents that made possible the implementation of important development programs. Investments Under Secretary Fernando Ruiz signed the documents for the Bolivian Government. Ruiz said that the studies will make possible the elaboration of sanitary programs for the Departments of Chuquisaca, Potosi, and Tarija; and drinking water for Quillacollo and Portachuelo. The eastern region will also benefit with ethnic-educational and technological diagnosis studies of the population settling in the Chaco, the eastern region, and northern La Paz Department.

[Begin Ruiz recording] It is worth mentioning that the agreements for these studies are the last part of the second pre-investment program worth $14.3 million. We thank the IDB through its representative in Bolivia, Mr (Francisco Alberguchi), for his help and the IDB interest to implement another program of [words indistinct]. I call on all authorities in the country to pay attention to these pre-investment programs and I urge them to submit new initiatives to obtain resources for programs that contribute to the development of the country. [end recording]

The IDB representative, (Francisco Alberguchi) said the signing of the five nonreimbursable contracts are the last of the aid program for this year. The IDB official said the bank is drafting a new financial program to be released soon.

Official on Regional Coca Eradication Plans

PY2305040089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Alternative Development Under Secretary Anibal Aguilar Gomez has said that several countries in the region, including Peru, Colombia, Paraguay, and others, which are affected by the production of coca, the raw material for cocaine, on their territories have decided to use herbicides, aerial sprays, and other systems to eradicate coca plantations.

The official, who participated in an important meeting in the United States, said that most countries attending the meeting agreed to the use of these types of systems because they are quicker. He added, however, that the system has a high social cost.

[Begin Aguilar recording] We attended a series of meetings in the United States to talk about the Bolivian Government proposal that the voluntary system, the nonviolent model, offers the best conditions to develop the voluntary substitution programs in Bolivia. [end recording]

Aguilar said he attended various seminars on the issue. One of them was the World Peace Seminar, where different strategies proposed by producer countries to fight drug trafficking were discussed. Aguilar said that after a careful analysis the group arrived at the following conclusions:

[Begin Aguilar recording] It is very important to adjust U.S. policies toward Latin America and define together with European countries a joint policy to control drug trafficking. [end recording]

Brazil

Itamaraty Concerned Over U.S. Envoy Designate

2405033789 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 May 89 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—The replacement of Harry Shlaudeman, who went into retirement after serving as U.S. ambassador to Brazil for 3 years and who returned to the United States a little over a week ago, has caused great agitation at Itamaraty. A high-ranking source has pointed to the Foreign Ministry's perplexity at the struggle for the designation of Shlaudeman's replacement.

The strongest candidate, or at least the man whose name has been more frequently mentioned, is Richard Melton, whose only merit—according to the source—is to have been declared persona non grata by the Daniel Ortega administration in Nicaragua, where he discharged ambassadorial duties.

The source said that Itamaraty is not satisfied with the system through which the U.S. ambassador will be replaced.

According to the source, Brazil believes that its relations with the United States are too important to be used as a consolation prize for "ambassadors who are used to working in countries where the United States uses hegemonic diplomatic tools; that is, strong interventionism."

The source said that it would be good for Brazil if the United States designated a career diplomat with direct access to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Brazil would also be satisfied with the designation of someone who is not a career diplomat but who significantly contributed to the election of George Bush. This criterion has thus far been used by the Bush administration.

Chile

PCCh Criticizes Foreign Intervention in Panama

PY2305191589 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 May 89 p C-2

[Text] In a communique issued yesterday, the proscribed Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] expressed its repudiation of a possible U.S. military intervention in Panama over the crisis following the elections held there last Sunday.

The communique, signed by PCCh leaders Jose Sanfuentes and Jaime Insunza, notes that such an attitude by the United States would represent an attack on the principle of popular sovereignty.

The PCCh leaders also believe that the Panamanian people should settle their conflicts alone. Sanfuentes and Insunza accuse the United States of merely seeking to defend its interests under the excuse of safeguarding Panamanian sovereignty.

In conclusion, Sanfuentes and Insunza point out that U.S. military intervention in Panama—if it is carried out—would be a shame for all Latin America. They reiterated, therefore, their rejection, "in a categorical way, of any attempt to carry out a military attack on a fraternal country."

Terrorist Attack Leaves 1 Dead, 5 Injured

PY2405005489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Mobil Unit No 5 is reporting from Barros Luco Hospital in San Miguel.

[Begin relay] Thank you very much. The people injured by an extremist command this evening at bus stop No 22 in Santa Rosa have been identified as (Macarena Torres Cello), and carabinero officers (Ricardo Azodillo Molinas), and (Sergio Ruiz Ruiz) of the 13th carabinero station.

According to preliminary reports, the carabinero officers were patrolling the aforementioned area when they were suddenly attacked by a group of extremists in a white van.

A young girl who sustained several bullet wounds died at the site of the attack while the two carabineros, who are receiving medical assistance here at the Barros Luco Hospital, were seriously injured.

According to the same unofficial information it was disclosed that some three or four civilians who were near the bus stop were also hit by the bullets fired by the extremists in southern Santiago.

We repeat: one young girl dead; two policemen seriously wounded; and at least two or three [as heard] civilians also injured by the weapons fired by the extremists in southern Santiago.

Fourth Naval Zone Created in North

PY2405021589 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 18 May 89 pp A-1, 8

[Excerpt] The Fourth Naval Zone will start operating in Iquique as of 21 May. This Chilean Navy operational force will have jurisdiction over the area between the northern international borderline and parallel 26 south.

The creation of the Fourth Naval Zone was made official through the publication yesterday in the official gazette of Decree No 453, signed by President Augusto Pinochet and National Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal.

Artilce No 1 of the decree states that "as of 21 May 1989" the Fourth Naval Zone will act as "a operational force of the Chilean Navy with jurisdiction over the area between the northern international borderline and parallel 26 south."

According to the same article, territorial waters corresponding to the First Naval Zone will no longer fall under its jurisdiction. However, the contiguous zone, the corresponding exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf, be it of the Easter, Sala y Gomez, San Felix, or San Ambrosio islands will continue to fall under the jurisdiction of the First Naval Zone.

The decree also states that the office of the commander in chief of the Fourth Naval Zone and the naval court will be based in Iquique City. [passage omitted]

Two New Regional Newspapers Appear

PY2405003189 Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish 17 May 89 p 32

[Text] In a remergence of regional media, two newspapers began to circulate in the past few days in Iquique and Talca, EL PUERTO and EL CENTRO, respectively.

EL PUERTO of Iquique, located in the First Region, was founded by Juan Esteban Montero Pozo, who is also the newspaper's publisher. In its first issue, EL PUERTO indicates that it will dedicate itself to the development, problems, and interests of Iquique. It adds that the media has to be the guide of public opinion, and that the newspaper will be inspired by the spirit of serving. Montero said that the existence of various media will continue to maintain the spirit of regionalism.

EL CENTRO of Talca, located in the Seventh Region, is published by Raul Espinoza Figueroa, and in its first editorial it indicates that it intends to be the spokesman of the local community, of the region of Maule, and of all that means daily progress. It will also support industrial, agricultural, and social promotion.

Colombia

Peruvian President Garcia Arrives for Visit

PA2305234189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 May 89

[Report by Jesus Garzon]

[Text] Peruvian President Alan Garcia, who turns 40 today, arrived in Bogota this morning. During his 5-day visit, Alan Garcia and Colombian President Virgilo Barco will sign a bilateral cooperation agreement to control drug trafficking. President Garcia will also attend the Andean Group's meeting in Cartagena.

Peru and Colombia will work hard to put an end to the scourge of narcotics trafficking, Alan Garcia said upon arriving in Bogota. The Peruvian president called on the Andean Pact countries—Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia—to join efforts and find a concerted solution to the problems of the Latin American foreign debt and poverty.

Alan Garcia arrived from Lima amid strict security measures that include some restrictions on the domestic and international press.

From the military airport, he was taken to the Tequendama Hotel, where he rested briefly. Garcia, who turns 40 today, then went to the Narino presidential palace where he was welcomed by President Barco.

[Begin Garcia recording] Thank you very much for the birthday wishes. I think this is a very beautiful opportunity to be in Colombia on my birthday, and to greet the Colombian people and tell them about how strong we feel about Latin American integration. [end recording]

In his first meeting with the press, the Peruvian president discussed narcotics trafficking, the Andean Pact, and the Latin American foreign debt.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] We have not complied with many aspects of the goals we set 20 years ago, and we must now establish specific goals so that 20 years from now, we can say we have been successful.

[Reporter] Mr President, what proposals regarding narcotics trafficking are you going to discuss with President Virgilio Barco?

[Garcia] I am sure that as part of our Latin American spirit, we—Colombia and Peru—will work together to put an end to this scourge. [end recording]

President Alan Garcia will stay here for 5 days and will attend various events in Bogota, Santa Marta, and Cartagena.

Trade Institute Reports $366-Million Deficit

PA2305213789 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 22 May 89 p 1-A

[Text] According to data compiled by the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute, Colombia's balance of trade showed a $366-million deficit during the 1st quarter of 1989. Exports during this period totaled $1.167 billion and imports amounted to $1.533 billion. The primary exports were sheet iron or steel, wheat, war materiel, gasoline, and cargo and passenger vehicles.

Ecuador

Drug Preventive Education Program Established

PA2305125089 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 21 May 89

[Excerpts] The Attorney General's Office and the Education Ministry, which are the organizations tasked with fighting drugs and educating Ecuadoreans, respectively, have established a special commission to coordinate joint antinarcotic activities. In that capacity, among other duties, the special commission is tasked with developing policies and strategies defined through an integrated national prevention program. Attorney (Fernando Andrade), deputy minister of education and culture, comments on the plan to fight illegal drug use:

[Begin (Andrade) recording] This program is a preventive education effort. To coordinate the actions of all government organizations that deal with fighting drugs, we decided that it is very important to establish a joint commission including the Attorney General's Office and the Education Ministry. This commission will develop and evaluate a preventive education program allowing the practical implementation of actions to eradicate this terrible evil that affects not only our country, but all of humanity. The attorney general and the minister of education and culture have signed an agreement to create this commission tasked with, I repeat, developing a preventive education program on illegal drug use in our country. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Attorney General (German Javier Arciniegas) said that the special commission will establish the technical guidelines for preventive education materials and will prevent the dissemination of negative audiovisual, printed, and subliminal material promoting the production, trafficking, and consumption of drugs, among other activities.

Peru

Garcia Reviews Air Force, Departs for Colombia

PY2305150689 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 23 May 89

[Report by Marina Estrada from Air Force base Group No 8 in Lima]

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia is now reviewing the FAP [Peruvian Air Force] troops headquartered here at the Air Force base Group No 8. [passage omitted]

The head of state is now boarding the Antonov-390 airplane for Colombia. It is 0656. Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox is also boarding the airplane. Some ambassadors, Prime Minister Dr Luis Alberto Sanchez, and the entire cabinet, who are seeing off the head of state, are near the airplane.

The president will arrive in Colombia at about 1015. He will be met by Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes. Later, Dr Alan Garcia Perez will be received by his Colombian counterpart, Virgilio Barco, at the (?Marino) Palace—the Colombian Government House—with all the honors due to a head of state. [passage omitted]

On Tuesday [23 May], President Alan Garcia will go to Santa Marta where he will meet with local congressmen and government officials. In Santa Marta, he will dedicate a mural by Peruvian maestro Mario Rodriguez.

On Thursday, 25 May, and Friday, 26 May, Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Peruvian President Alan Garcia, and Colombian President Virgilio Barco will meet in Cartagena de Indias to work on regional integration. On Thursday [25 May], the presidents will make their respective speeches. Virgilio Barco, who will welcome his counterparts, will be the first one to speak. Dr Alan Garcia will be the fourth to speak. The summit will be closed on Friday, 26 May.

On Saturday, 27 May, the Peruvian president will be seen off by his Colombian counterpart at the Rafael Nunez Airport in Cartagena and this will be the end of President Alan Garcia's visit to Colombia.

President Garcia is scheduled to arrive in Lima on Saturday, 27 May at 1500. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Shining Path 'Threat' to State

PY2305172889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0547 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Lima, 22 May (EFE)—Peruvian Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla today admitted that Shining Path terrorists pose a "threat" to the state and that they have established a "strong presence" in the Easter Jungle region.

In an interview published by the CARETAS magazine, Mantilla said that "the situation is serious because we are waging an all-out war. Shining Path terrorists carry out their activities in different regions and their numbers have increased."

According to Mantilla, a large number of trained terrorists undertake operations in the jungle provinces of Juanjui, Tocache, Tingo Maria, Aguaytia, and Puerto Inca as well as in other important areas where they have attacked patrols and police garrisons, killing many people.

Mantilla estimated that the Shining Path terrorist organization, which began the armed struggle 9 years ago, might have at least 2,500 armed guerrillas in the jungle area and in the Andean central mountain range. He did not, however, mention the number of guerrillas that might be in Lima.

Mantilla told CARETAS that the government will deliver weapons to a sector of the people living in the townships located in the mountain range area of Junin, Pasco, and Puno Department seeking to create "Peasant Defense Patrols" and turn them into the government's civilian armed branch, to fight the guerrillas.

Alleged Shining Path Terrorists Kill Officials

PY2305151289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0117 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Lima, 22 May (EFE)—Police sources reported today that on 21 May alleged members of the Shining Path terrorist organization killed a lieutenant governor and a judge in a township of the Puno Department in the Peruvian southeast region.

The two civilian officials were killed following an attack on an experimental farm of the Altiplano University in Macari, Melgar Province, Puno Department.

According to the same sources, after attacking the farm, the terrorists headed for the houses of Lieutenant Governor Toribio Chalco and of Judge Cesar Vera, who were taken from their houses and shot dead.

More than 13,000 people have died in Peru since 17 May 1980, when the Shining Path terrorist group began its terrorist activities.

Kill 5 People in Raids

PY2305153289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0449 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Lima, 22 May (EFE)—The police reported today that Shining Path terrorists have killed five people, among them two teachers, in two townships of Ica and Huancavelica Departments.

The sources said that the incidents occurred on 20 May in San Pedro de Huacarpana, in a mountain range area of the Chincha Province in Ica Department, and in Chupamarca, Castrovirreyna Province in Huancavelica Department. The townships are located on the borders of the two departments, and are close together.

Two people were killed in Huacarpana, while in Chupamarca three were murdered. A school teacher is also missing.

Journalistic sources have reported that Shining Path terrorists are very active in Ica and Huancavelica Departments, which are regarded by the terrorists as a "free zone."

Police sources reported today that on 21 May a column of alleged Shining Path terrorists killed a lieutenant governor and a judge in the township of Macari, Puno Department, southeast of Lima.

Kill 5 Policemen, Injure 8

PY2405030389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2120 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Lima, 23 May (EFE)—According to police sources in Lima, five members of the Special Operations Directorate (DOES) died and eight others were injured when a bomb exploded as they were crossing a bridge in a vehicle they were using to tour a jungle area.

The explosion took place today at the Santa Lucia Bridge in Aucayacu, Tingo Maria, the Peruvian province with the largest scale of drug trafficking. Tingo Maria is located 550 km northeast from Lima.

The sources disclosed that the DOES members were patrolling the area in two all-purpose vehicles and that the dynamite sticks went off as they crossed the bridge and damaged one of the vehicles.

Preliminary reports state that among the dead are a sergeant and among the injured a lieutenant, a sergeant, and six policemen.

The source, who refused to identify himself, added that after the explosion the uninjured policemen clashed with numerous unidentified individuals that could have been mercenaries hired by drug traffickers or members of the Maoist Shining Path terrorist group.

The source said he did not know whether any casualties had been registered among the attackers.

The DOES is formed by personnel specially trained to fight drug trafficking and terrorists in the Huallaga River Valley where coca leaves and raw material for the production of cocaine base paste is produced in large quantities.

Uruguay

PCU Demands Firm Stand Against U.S. in Panama

PY2305015289 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 13 May 89 p 8

[Statement released by the Uruguayan Communist Party (PCU) executive committee on 12 May 1989]

[Text] Panama is in danger. The U.S. Government has sent 2,000 soldiers and Marines to the canal zone, where more than 12,000 troops have already been deployed. The Yankee administration is attempting to revive the big stick policy, which has installed and removed governments through threats and force.

It is not true that those who supported Somoza, Stroessner, and Pinochet are concerned about democracy. What they want is to perpetuate U.S. domination over the canal, annul the Torrijos-Carter treaties, maintain their military bases—which are aimed at Nicaragua—in the area, and install a puppet government that will support the Yankee policy of aggression.

The threat of an intervention has been prepared over a long period of time, through violations of Panamanian airspace; the blocking of its bank accounts; the elimination of the sugar quota; and the financing and performing of a destabilization plan, in line with the Santa Fe II document drawn up by the advisers to the current U.S. President. The document openly mentioned the ousting of the current Panamanian Government, the modification of the Torrijos- Carter treaties, and the permanence of the United States at the Howard Air Force base and at the Rodman naval base after the year 2000.

No one could remain indifferent to U.S. intervention, which would be an open attack against peace in Latin America, with immediate repercussions on the peace treaties for Central America, which have already been violated by the U.S. Congress decision to grant $60 million to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The PCU alerts the Uruguayan people about this very serious situation and calls on workers, students, intellectuals, all working social sectors, and the democratic forces to adopt a position in defense of Panamanian sovereignty. The broadest democratic solidarity and the attitude assumed by governments and vast sectors of the continent have frustrated and are still frustrating the plan of aggression against Nicaragua. Today Latin America should impede the success of the aggressive plans against Panama. The PCU demands that the Uruguayan Government adopt a firm position against the Yankee intervention.

Army Commander Rules Out Terrorist Resurgence

PY1905031289 Montevideo Radio Carve Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Army Commander Lieutenant General Carlos Berois has said there are no nostalgic officers within the Army, adding that according to information from the Army intelligence service there are no indications of a possible terrorist resurgence in Uruguay.

Berois made this statement after a ceremony to celebrate Uruguayan Army Day that was attended by high-ranking government officials, political leaders, and congressmen of the Colorado and National Parties.

On this occasion Defense Minister Lieutenant General Hugo Medina said that a state of calm has prevailed within the Armed Forces since the 16 April plebiscite.

Medina said he believes the citizenry does not need to worry about the possibility of a terrorist resurgence.

Leftist Factions To Join Broad Front

PY2305011689 Montevideo LA DEMOCRACIA in Spanish 12 May 89 p 5

[Summary] The Broad Front Political Board has decided to recommend that the Broad Front's leadership accept the membership applications submitted by the 26 de Marzo Movement; the Socialist Workers Party, which is a Trotskyist party; the Grito de Asencio Integration Movement; and the Artigas and Unity of the Christian Democratic Party.

PGP Canelones Department Deputy Resigns

PY2305015789 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 17 May 89 p 5

[Summary] Tabare Caputi, Party for the Government by the People, PGP, deputy for Canelones Department on 16 May resigned on the wake of the PGP's decision to leave the Broad Front. His resignation has been accepted. He will be replaced by Advanced Democracy lawmaker Marcos Carambula.

Guyana

Hoyte Responds to Hemispheric Affairs Council

FL2305231089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2123 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 23, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte has flayed the Washington-based think tank, the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, which this week said bloody riots could erupt in Guyana if his government fails to deal with the country's worsening economic and political crisis.

"I think we (in the Caribbean) pay too much attention to some of those organisations," Hoyte told journalists here on Tuesday and declared that there was no prospect of an upheaval in Guyana although the country is going through a difficult period.

"We hear of this organisation but nobody stops to ask what it is. I spoke to them when I was in the United States and got the impression that it was a fly-by-night organisation...so I don't think we should put too much weight on what it says."

The liberal council accused Hoyte's administration of "trying to impress" the International Monetary Fund by devaluing the nation's currency by 230 per cent, and said he only ended up creating severe food shortages, hiking the costs of essential items, and contributing to a decline in the nation's standard of living.

"As the economic and political chaos deepens," the council said, "most observers fear the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-influenced austerity measures adopted by Hoyte may eventually trigger the kind of violence seen in Venezuela last February, which ended in the death of nearly 600 demonstrators."

Hoyte admitted Tuesday that his government's economic measures were harsh but said they were necessary for the recovery of Guyana's economy.

In a telephone interview with CANA on Tuesday, one of the council's research assistants, Chris Orsinger, defended the organisation's integrity saying it had sources in Guyana and it had economic analyses produced by the South American state for the international banks as well as other sources.

"If the continuing strikes are not part of a signal and the drastic currency devaluation, as well as the difficulty of the foreign debt, the problems with food supply—if these are not the kind of indicators (of political and economic chaos)—we have to respectfully disagree with the president," Orsinger said.

The 12 year-old council monitors political and economic trends in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Suriname

NPS Committee Urges Changes Within Party

FL2305225889 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Committee for the Restoration of Democracy in the National Party of Suriname [NPS] has pointed out that the leadership of the party can only choose between dialogue or a total break with the committee.

During a press conference yesterday morning, members of the committee reacted on the recent statement by NPS Chairman Henck Arron to journalists. The committee hereby stated that it is against a split in the NPS, while party chairman Arron has accused the committee of engineering further splits during the interview with the journalists.

The members of the committee have emphasized that the current ideas within the party in relation to democracy must be changed. According to the committee, only a dialogue can bring a solution to this situation. The committee has stated that the party leadership will, therefore, have to choose between a strengthening of the unity within the party or a big split.

Union Calls Assembly's Motion 'Success'

FL2305184189 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Trade Union leader (Frans Lamkerbereh) said that the motion which was accepted by the National Assemby last Friday is a trial of success for the trade union movement. He said that essential matters which were brought forward by the trade union movement, during its 1-day protest strike on May 5th last, are formulated in the motion.

The motion, which was signed by both the opposition and coalition parties, supports the position of the government in relation to the development relations with Holland, terrorism, and the black market in foreign currency. He said that the protest strike has awakened the government from its sleep. The trade union movement will carry out activities in order to consolidate the success, said (Frans Lamkerbereh), secretary general of the C-47 [Centrale-47] trade union federation.

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